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NORTH COAST JOURNAL OF POLITICS, PEOPLE & ART

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Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021
Vol. XXXII Issue 1
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LIES OF OMISSION

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that went
underreported
by mainstream
media in 2020

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MURPHY'S Markets

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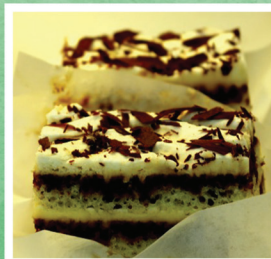
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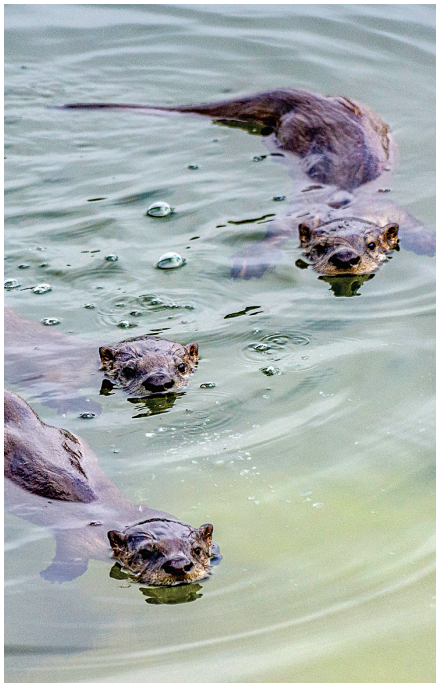
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River otters at Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary from photographer Mark Larson's year in review. Read more on page 9. Photo by Mark Larson

On the Cover
Illustration by Anson Stevens-Bollen



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Carbon and Environmental Racism

Editor:

The North Coast is an information bubble. Nothing provides better evidence of the hermetic media realities of the region than forest and climate politics. For instance, over the past decade the California cap-and-trade program has massively transformed dynamics for regulating the fossil fuel and timber industries in the state, and beyond. Yet there is a tremendous lack of understanding in Northern California of the controversies, mechanics and history of carbon markets.

The information bubble around carbon trading is starting to pop. One example is the recent coverage by Pew Charitable Trusts exploring the environmental racism embedded in carbon trading ("Landmark Climate Policy Faces Growing Claims of Environmental Racism," Dec. 23, available at bit.ly/3rUr6L). Pew is one of the most markets-oriented conservation foundations on the planet. Pew is deeply connected to the conservation industry in the redwood region.

The article describes the injustice of carbon trading mechanisms that allow fossil fuel corporations (i.e. Chevron) to continue polluting communities (i.e. Richmond) through the purchase of offsets based on forest management and logging projects, including on the North Coast and in the Klamath Basin ("The Top 10 Stories of 2020," Dec. 31).

The Pew article does not pursue the scientific critiques of carbon market failures to address the main drivers of climate change. However, the article does describe how the bleak track record of former chair of the California Air Resources Board Mary Nichols in addressing the environmental racism of the carbon market was enough to prevent the new Biden-Harris executive from nominating her to be the next administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

These newsworthy politics are very relevant to our community. Let's hope 2021 marks a new chapter of frank and transparent discussion about carbon markets, one of the most monumental policy developments in the history of the redwoods — yet one that is understood by very few.

Gary Graham Hughes, Redway

Like Herding Criminals

Editor:

The failed right-wing Trump regime's unofficial policy all along in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic was the so-called public health strategy of herd immunity ("A Deadly Finale," Nov. 26). This pathetic policy of complete surrender to the coronavirus is a direct result of the racist Republican party's malign neglect and "herd mentality,"

as deranged Donald Trump himself said.

Delusional Donald has made it perfectly clear over the course of this conservative-caused catastrophe that he wants, in his own words, a "herd developed" solution to this crisis of his own making. More than 350,000 Americans are dead, most of whom didn't have to die! Donald Trump is directly to blame for this genocidal crime against humanity, not to mention his countless crimes against the Constitution.

Being voted out of office in a landslide is insufficient punishment for Vladimir Putin's puppet. Traitor Trump deserves to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law upon the end of his pathological presidency on Jan. 20th. No presidential pardon is going to save the Trump Crime Family from state civil and criminal prosecutions, which is why the state of New York will have the final word on the fate of these farcical fascists and their bogus business empire.

Jake Pickering, Arcata

Bold Move

I am a white male in my eightieth year. When I read your headline stating "Top Ten Dick Moves of 2020" (Dec. 31), I was stumped. The only dick move I know is an erection.

Reading the article, I learned "Dick Moves" include: stockpiling toilet paper; conspiracy theories and media hoaxes; tearing down a rainbow flag; xenophobia; not wearing masks; flouting COVID Restrictions; having big, happy weddings in the time of COVID; killing otters; and driving cars into protestors.

I understand how killing otters and intentionally running down pedestrians can be considered "Dick Moves." Real harm is done. And it is a rare — very rare — person without a dick who does so, the exception proving the rule that persons without dicks don't indulge in gratuitous slaughter nor aim their cars at people they disagree with.

However, I fail to see how the prior eight alleged "Dick Moves" were/are made only by persons with dicks. Thus, I ask: can a person without a dick make a dick move?

If so, would it not be just as accurate and/or discriminatory to label them pussy moves?

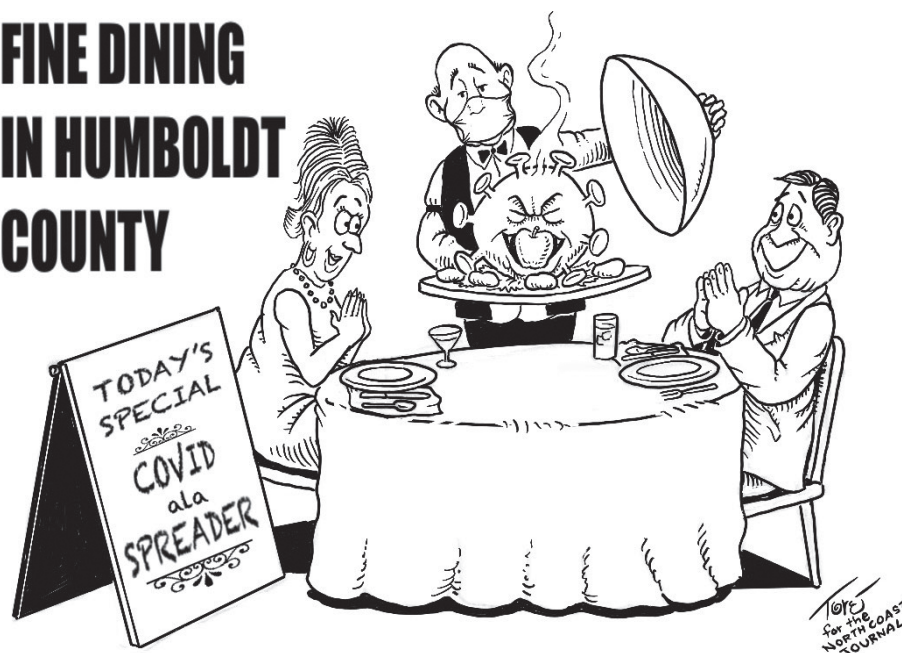
Alex Ricca, Blue Lake

In Defense of Christmas and Christians

Editor:

Responding to a submission bemoaning Merry Christmas salutations rather than Happy Holidays: I have no problem with sending seasonal cards out with Happy Holidays instead of Christmas greetings to folks of other faiths that don't celebrate the religious part of Christmas (Mailbox,

FINE DINING IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY



Terry Torgerson

Dec. 31). The letter writer should consider that her response to the "Merry Christmas" by the store clerk was an obvious, and probably unwelcome, virtue signaling. A simple "and Happy Holidays to you" in response would have avoided the passive aggressive suggestion the well intentioned Christmas greeting by the clerk was actually a statement about her non inclusiveness, and an insult to anyone of a different faith, especially her Jewish friend.

I know many Christians, but none that would exclude any other faith, regardless, of joining in Christmas celebrations. I did encounter non inclusivity by wishing a Black acquaintance a "Happy Kwanzaa" and being told not unkindly, but firmly, "that is a holiday for Black folks." I have since been told the opposite by closer (Black) friends. Same with the Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan, Eid al Fitr. Some Muslims welcome non Muslims greeting and sharing in their joy, some definitely do not.

Being the most uncool of all racial categorizations, white, extra demerits for chronologically challenged, and male, feel free to doubt the veracity of my observation that Christians are far from being the only ones capable of exclusivity. I don't have the "Jewish friend" to virtue signal a well intentioned salutation into a statement about the clerk's inclusiveness or lack thereof. Would my Jewish wife of a couple decades, who loves Christmas ornaments and decorations more than I do, count?

John Dillon, Eureka

Again?

Editor:

What??? Another Election in Humboldt — now?? ("Top 10 Stories of 2020," Dec.

31.) Yes! and all over California! An important election for Democrats. We have an opportunity to vote for candidates to represent our progressive views in the California Democratic Party. Voting is easy this time: Click on www.adem.cadem.org and request a mail-in ballot. When it comes, please vote for the Progressive/Labor Slate, for candidates who, if elected, will uphold progressive views and work for progressive goals in setting priorities for the CDP. There are 13 candidates on the Slate, including seven from Humboldt County: Kellie Shaner, Cheryl Seidner, Sarah Brooks, Lisa Welch, Geoffrey Robinson, Pete Loetterle and David Frank. If elected, they will serve two-year terms and work to shape the CDP to work for a better future for all of us, not just the rich and powerful who have dominated California politics for far too long.

Peggy Dickinson, Eureka

Correction

In the wall calendar inserted into the Dec. 31, 2020 edition of the *North Coast Journal*, the *Journal* inaccurately credited the April photo titled "Lupin Bloom on Bald Hills Road." The photograph was taken by Dana Utman, of Bayside. The *Journal* regrets the error.

Write a Letter!

Please make your letter no more than 300 words and include your full name, place of residence and phone number (we won't print your number). Send it to letters@northcoastjournal.com. The deadline to have a letter considered for the upcoming edition is 10 a.m. Monday. ●

CELEBRATING LOCAL HISTORY



Photo and Information courtesy of Jerry Rohde

Tanbark Wagon - Shelter Cove, 1907

A four-horse team pulls a wagon to Shelter Cove. Their load is light because the wagon is filled with rolled-up sections of tanbark. For decades, thousands of tanoak trees were cut for their bark, which was used to tan leather. There were several tanneries in Humboldt County, including one a block away from the Arcata Co-op and another on Myrtle Avenue near Freshwater Corners, but most of Humboldt's tanbark went to tanneries in central California. The two biggest shipping points were at Sea Lion Rock, near the mouth of the Mattole River, and at Shelter Cove, where there was a grinding machine that cut the bark into small pieces that were then put into wooden barrels. At Briceland, the Wagner Leather Company had a processing plant that converted the bark into a sort of thick syrup that was taken in barrels to the Shelter Cove wharf. Eventually synthetic tanning agents were developed, but by then most of southern Humboldt's tanoaks had been cut.

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Bracing for Purple

Health officer expects Humboldt is headed again for state's purple tier as sheriff warns widespread vaccination likely 6-9 months off

By Thadeus Greenson
thad@northcoastjournal.com

On Nov. 30, Humboldt County Public Health reported that it had confirmed 47 new cases, bringing the county's cumulative tally nine months into the pandemic to 898 cases and capping the record-setting month with 327 new cases confirmed. Conditions, officials warned, were worsening.

In the 36 days between Nov. 30 and Jan. 5, when this edition of the *Journal* went to press, the county had confirmed another 1,030 cases, with officials still bracing for a surge in cases stemming from Christmas and New Year's gatherings and travel. The virus, local health officials have repeatedly said, is spreading at unprecedented levels.

On the cusp of this current surge, which has seen Humboldt County break a string of daily and weekly case records, the state announced Nov. 24 it was moving the county from its orange "moderate" risk tier directly to its most restrictive purple "widespread" tier, skipping the red "substantial" tier entirely and shuttering indoor operations at restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and places of worship, while also imposing a nighttime stay-at-home order. That status held as cases — and the percentages of local COVID-19 tests coming back positive — surged. Then, on Dec. 29, the state caught local officials off guard when it — without consultation, according to county Health Officer Ian Hoffman — moved Humboldt County back to the substantial tier, allowing restaurants to resume indoor dining and other businesses to re-open indoor operations.

As the *Journal* went to press Jan. 5, the state doubled down on that decision, keeping Humboldt County in the red, even as local officials had said the data doesn't appear to support the designation. Addressing the Board of Supervisors that day, Hoffman said he expected Humboldt County to move back into the widespread risk tier when the state reclassified counties again Jan. 12.

"My update today is that the numbers

do look solidly purple for this week," he said.

The state primarily looks at two metrics to determine a county's tier status — the daily average of confirmed cases per 100,000 residents and the average test-positivity rate, both over a seven-day period — as well as an "equity" adjustment designed to make sure counties are trying to prevent COVID-19 spread across all demographics.

According to the state data released Jan. 5, Humboldt County had recorded an average of 15.1 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents per day with a test-positivity rate of 5.2 percent over the seven-day period.

Humboldt County's test positivity rate alone would qualify it for its current red "substantial" tier, but the case tallies are more than double the state's criteria for the purple "widespread" tier. When a county straddles two tiers, the state metrics say it should fall into the more restrictive category. It remains unclear why the state surprised local officials by moving the county into the red tier Dec. 29, though officials have said it has to do with the health equity metric.

The numbers in the 14 days before the *Journal* went to press were far worse, with the county having recorded an average of 22 new cases daily per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate of 8.6 percent. In the seven-day period ending Jan. 5, the county had recorded 29.7 new cases daily per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate of 10.9 percent. For context, the seven-day period immediately prior to the state's initially placing Humboldt County purple tier saw a daily case average per 100,000 residents of 11.2 with a test-positivity rate of 4 percent.

"Our data is worsening, not improving," Hoffman said in a Jan. 5 press release. "I would urge every member of our community to take precautions as if we're in the purple tier because there is a lot of virus circulating in our community right now.



Local businesses should also be cautious about planning for the next few weeks because we anticipate a move back to purple next week."

The Jan. 5 press release also brought news that another Humboldt County resident had died after testing positive for the virus, making 23 since the pandemic's start. Of those, 14 have come since Dec. 1, including a dozen residents of Eureka's Granada Rehabilitation and Wellness skilled nursing facility, where an outbreak had infected at least 99 people at last report.

Hovering in the background of the tier designation is the statewide stay-at-home order that's already in place for 98.3 percent of the state's population and will be implemented locally if the Northern California region — comprising Humboldt and 10 other counties — sees its cumulative available hospital intensive care unit capacity dip below 15 percent. If triggered, the order would close all non-essential businesses, force restaurants to shift to pick-up or delivery only and order residents to generally stay at home.

On Jan. 5, the state reported the Northern California region had a cumulative available ICU capacity of 29.8 percent. Health officers in the region have warned the state's 15-percent threshold may be precariously low, as there are only about 120 ICU beds spread through the 11 counties and 15 percent availability would leave just 18 beds.

Other areas of California, meanwhile, are already seeing capacity pushed past the brink, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deploying to upgrade oxygen



Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal said he and other state sheriffs were told on a recent conference call with California Secretary of Health and Human Services Mark Ghaly that it will likely be six to nine months before members of the general public can sign up to be vaccinated. Shutterstock

systems amid shortages at Southern California hospitals in the face of an onslaught of COVID-19 patients. Due to a shortage of hospital beds and staff, some ambulance services in Los Angeles have also instructed paramedics not to transport patients who are unlikely to survive.

And while news of an effective, approved vaccine was met last month with open arms, its rollout has been slower than hoped for or promised by the federal government. Locally, Hoffman reported the county has received about 5,600 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which proved 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 infection during clinical trials. Of those, Hoffman said about 2,000 doses remain to be distributed, with frontline healthcare workers first in line to receive them.

St. Joseph Health spokesperson Christian Hill said "all frontline" healthcare workers at St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial hospitals have been offered the vaccine and that 1,183 had been administered as of Dec. 31. Hill said clinics administering both first and second doses — immunity comes after a second dose of the vaccine is administered 21 days after the first — this week.

In a Jan. 4 press release, SoHum Health reported vaccination of "local volunteer fire agencies and other healthcare providers" is beginning this week, and that it has vaccinated staff members at Singing Trees Recovery Center, as well. This seems out of step with the phased vaccination

schedule issued by the state, which prioritized frontline healthcare workers with high risk of COVID-19 exposure and long-term care residents, with first responders, educators and essential service employees in the next phase of vaccine distributions.

Statewide, it is estimated about 3 million people fall into the first phase of prioritized distribution, though the state has only received about 1.3 million vaccine doses to date, according to a report in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Locally, Hoffman said while Humboldt County was enthusiastic about the rate it was receiving vaccine doses initially, it has not received any this week and has no new shipments of first doses in the immediate pipeline.

During the Jan. 5 report to the board of supervisors, Sheriff William Honsal said he'd been on a recent call between the state sheriff's association and California Secretary of Health and Human Services Mark Ghaly.

The sheriffs, Honsal said, were told it will likely be six to nine months before members of the general public can sign up to be vaccinated.

Thadeus Greenon (he/him) is the Journal's news editor. Reach him at 442-1400, extension 321, or thad@northcoastjournal.com. Follow him on Twitter @thadeusgreenon.

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WaPo’s Scathing Investigative Report on Owner of Humboldt Nursing Homes

The Washington Post recently published a scorching investigative report on Brius Healthcare, which, with 80 nursing homes in California, including four in Humboldt County, is the state’s largest for-profit nursing home operator.

The story details how Brius received more than \$800 million in Medicare and Medicaid funding in 2018 to care for residents at its 80 homes and spent more than 70 percent of it paying so-called related parties — companies they or their family members partially or wholly own in a scheme to increase profits. The Post’s analysis found that Brius homes pay about 40 percent more per bed on average to related parties than other for-profit nursing homes in California. While the Post notes it is impossible to determine profits or losses from any of these privately held related companies from the public record, tax returns offer a glimpse.

The Post’s investigation found that in 2013 alone, Shlomo Rechnitz, Brius’ owner, and his wife reported income of at least \$31 million from four of these related companies that regularly provide services to Brius’ nursing homes. In 2018 alone, the Post reports, Brius paid more than \$100 million to dozens of related companies for everything from medical supplies to rent.

The article points to a local example: “In the Eureka area in Northern California, a company managed by Rechnitz in 2011 leased five nursing homes, agreeing to pay the property owner a total of \$3 million in rent per year, state records show. Rechnitz’s company then subleased the buildings to

the nursing homes for \$3.5 million — hundreds of thousands of dollars more than his company was paying the property owner, records show.”

Some of the Post’s exhaustive bombshell report should come as no surprise to regular Journal readers, as it echoes the findings of years of award-winning local reporting on Brius’ Humboldt County properties. (Huge hat tip to former Journal staff writer Linda Stansberry, whose pieces “The Shut Out,” which detailed Brius’ efforts to refuse to accept new patients as a leverage point in reimbursement negotiations, and “The Case of the Missing \$5 Million,” which exposed Rechnitz’s profiting from related-party transactions while complaining his local companies were operating at a deficit, won back-to-back Best Investigative Reporting awards from the California Newspaper Publisher’s Association in 2016 and 2017. Stansberry’s subsequent “Bluffing” explored Rechnitz’s “high-stakes gamble with patient lives” and California’s inability to provide effective oversight.)

Brius Healthcare owns Granada Rehabilitation and Wellness, Seaview Rehabilitation and Wellness, Eureka Rehabilitation and Wellness and Fortuna Rehabilitation and Wellness, holding a virtual monopoly on skilled nursing facilities in Humboldt County. Granada has seen a large and deadly COVID-19 outbreak that at last official tally had infected 99 residents and staff members, and claimed the lives of a dozen residents. Local health officials have said Granada’s staff did all it could to prevent the virus — which has decimated nursing homes and long-term care facilities throughout the country — from entering the facility and, when it did, to contain the outbreak. POSTED 01.06.21

2020: A Photographer’s Look Back



Local photographer and longtime Journal contributor Mark Larson shared a collection of photos from 2020, a year like no other. Larson’s retrospective begins as 2020 did, with the annual gatherings that make life on the North Coast unique, but quickly shifts, documenting Larson’s efforts to stay busy and find beauty in a new, more isolated world, which included a May trip to the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where he found this Pacific tree frog. Read Larson’s full account of documenting 2020 and find a slideshow of his photos at www.northcoastjournal.com. POSTED 12.31.20

Photo by Mark Larson

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One Dead after Arcata Shooting: A

shooting at an Arcata motel in the 4800 block of Valley West Boulevard at about 3 a.m. on Jan. 3 led to a fire and a man’s death. The incident remains under investigation but police report a 30-year-old man allegedly shot a motel employee in the foot before committing suicide in his burning hotel room. POSTED 01.03.21

Compliance Tip Line Goes Local:

The county Joint Information Center announced Dec. 31 that it would no longer be operating a countywide COVID-19 restriction compliance tip line. Instead, local cities will field compliance-related tips and calls — reporting everything from employee masking and businesses operating when they should be closed to large community gatherings — moving forward, with tips regarding unincorporated areas of the county going to 476-2429. POSTED 12.31.20

Fatal Crash:

A 63-year-old Redway man died Jan. 3 after his truck went off U.S. Highway 101 south of Redcrest and down a steep embankment before hitting a tree and coming to rest in a creek, according to the California Highway Patrol. The cause of the crash and whether drugs or alcohol were a factor remain under investigation. POSTED 01.05.21

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Digitally Speaking

40 The number of acres of agricultural land the Yurok Tribe recently purchased with Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding to create a food security farm filled with healthy fruits and vegetables. POSTED 12.30.21

They Said It

“What’s really important is that detecting this lineage here doesn’t really change what we need to do other than we need to do it better.”

— Kristian Andersen, an infectious disease and genomics expert at Scripps Research in San Diego, on discovery of a new, more infectious, COVID-19 strain in California, explaining that physical distancing and masking remain crucial to limiting spread of the virus. POSTED 01.04.21

Comment of the Week

“Grandstanding? You mean like this Congressman?”

— Schmitt Box on the Journal’s Facebook page responding to a post in which North Coast Rep. Jared Huffman accused one of his colleagues of grandstanding when she pledged to bring her pistol to work in Congress for protection. With the comment, Box posted a picture of Huffman during the federal shutdown last January, when he posed with a garbage can while picking up “Trump trash” in national parks. POSTED 01.05.21

Lydia West asks for a task force dedicated to solving the cases of murdered and missing Indigenous women during a Sept. 9 protest at the Humboldt County Courthouse. Photo by Kris Nagel

Lies of Omission

10 stories that went underreported by mainstream media in 2020

By Paul Rosenberg, *Project Censored Senior Editor*

newsroom@northcoastjournal.com



Every year since 1976, *Project Censored* has performed an invaluable service — shedding light on the most significant news that's somehow not fit to print. Censorship in an authoritarian society is obvious, from a distance, at least. There is a central agent or agency responsible for it and the lines are clearly drawn. That's not the case in America, yet some stories rarely, if ever, see the light of day, such as stories about violence against Native American women and girls, even though four out of five of them experience it at some point in their lives, overwhelmingly at the hands of non-Native perpetrators.

"I wouldn't say that we're more vulnerable," Annita Lucchesi, a Southern Cheyenne descendant and executive director of the Sovereign Bodies Institute, told *The Guardian*. "I'd say that we're targeted. It's not about us being vulnerable victims, it's about the system being designed to target and marginalize our women."

And, the media erasure of their stories is part of that same system of targeting and marginalization. While journalists everyday work hard to expose injustices, they work within a system where some injustices are so deeply baked in that stories exposing them are rarely told and even more rarely expanded upon to give them their proper due.

That's where *Project Censored* comes in.

"The primary purpose of *Project Censored* is to explore and publicize the extent of news censorship in our society by locating stories about significant issues of which the public should be aware, but is not, for a variety of reasons," wrote its founder Carl Jensen on its 20th anniversary.

Thus, the list of censored stories that's the centerpiece of its annual book, *State of the Free Press / 2021*, doesn't just help us to see individual stories we might otherwise have missed. It helps us see patterns — patterns of censorship, of stories sup-

pressed and patterns of how those stories fit together.

This year, for example, among its top 10 stories there are two stories about violence and victimization of women of color, including the role of media neglect: #1. *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (introduced above) and #7. *Underreporting of Missing and Victimized Black Women and Girls*. There are similarities as well as differences between them and being able to see them both together in *Project Censored's* list helps us see them both more fully as distinct, yet connected stories.

There are also three stories concerning the media itself (#2. *Monsanto "Intelligence Center" Targeted Journalists and Activists*, #6. *Shadow Network of Conservative Outlets Emerges to Exploit Faith in Local News*, and #10. *Revive Journalism with a Stimulus Package and Public Option*); there are two climate change stories about overlooked causes and risks (#3. *U.S. Military — A Massive, Hidden Contributor to Climate Crisis* and #9. *Rising Risks of Nuclear Power Due to Climate Change*) while a third (#4. *Congressional Investments and Conflicts of Interest*) had a climate change component — senators' fossil fuel investments; and two related to income inequality (#5. *Inequality Kills: Gap between Richest and Poorest Americans Largest in 50 Years*, about the problem itself and #8. *The Public Banking Revolution*, about a promising way to support a more equitable economy).

There are also further climate change threads woven through these stories — a highlighted connection between the extractive fossil fuel industry and violence against Native women, as well as an unmentioned connection via Monsanto's employment of FTI Consulting, which has been heavily involved in climate disinformation warfare.

The stories listed below are only part of what *Project Censored* does, however.

State of the Free Press / 2021 has chapters devoted to other forms of obfuscation that help keep censored stories obscured. There's a chapter devoted to "Junk Food News," meaning cheaply produced, stories focused on celebrityhood, industry-generated buzz and other trivia in place of substantive investigative journalism, and another devoted to "News Abuse," meaning genuinely important topics presented through a distorted lens or two. There's also a chapter devoted to "Déjà Vu News," tracking previous *Project Censored* stories to update them and track whether they've gained some of the wider attention they deserve. And the chapter, *Media Democracy in Action* highlights individuals and organizations engaged in building a more inclusive, equitable, and democratic society. So, if the Top 10 stories summarized below leave you hungry for more, *Project Censored* has all that and more waiting for you in *State of the Free Press / 2021*.

1. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

"In June 2019 the Canadian National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report, which received widespread news coverage in the United States," *Project Censored* notes. "U.S. corporate news outlets have provided nearly nothing in the way of reporting on missing and murdered Indigenous women in the United States."

That's despite a problem of similar dimensions, and complexity, along with the election of the first two Native American members of congress, Deb Holland and Sharice Davids, who, *Ms. Magazine* reported, "are supporting two bills that would address the federal government's failure to track and respond to violence against indigenous women [and] are supported by a mass movement in the U.S. and Canada raising an alarm about missing

and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWG)."

Four in five Native women experience violence at some time in their lives, according to a 2016 survey by the National Institute of Justice, cited in an August 2019 *Think Progress* report.

"About nine in 10 Native American rape or sexual-assault victims had assailants who were white or Black," according to a 1999 Justice Department report.

"Although the number of Native Americans murdered or missing in 2016 exceeded 3,000 — roughly the number of people who died during the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack — the Justice Department's missing persons database logged only 116 cases that year," *Think Progress* noted. "The sheer scale of the violence against Native women and the abysmal failure by the government to adequately address it, explains why the issue was given such prominence during this week's presidential candidates' forum in Sioux City — the first to focus entirely on Native American issues."

But even that didn't grab media attention.

There are multiple complicating factors in reporting, tracking, investigating and prosecuting, which were explored in coverage by *The Guardian* and *Yes! Magazine*, as well as *Ms.* and *Think Progress*.

"Campaigners, including the Sovereign Bodies Institute, the Brave Heart Society, and the Urban Indian Health Institute, identify aspects of systemic racism — including the indelible legacies of settler colonialism, issues with law enforcement, a lack of reliable and comprehensive data and flawed policymaking — as deep-rooted sources of the crisis," *Project Censored* summed up. "As *YES! Magazine* reported, tribal communities in the United States often lack jurisdiction to respond to crimes."

This was partially remedied in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, known as VAWA, but "it left

sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence outside tribal jurisdiction, *YES! Magazine* reported.”

The House voted to expand tribal jurisdiction in such cases in its 2019 VAWA reauthorization, but, Ms. reported, “The bill is now languishing in the Senate, where Republicans have so far blocked a vote.”

Another facet of the problem explored by *Yes!* is the connection between the extractive fossil fuel industry and violence against Native women. The Canadian report “showed a strong link between extraction zones on the missing and murdered women crisis in Canada,” *Yes!* noted. “It specifically cited rotational shift work, sexual harassment in the workplace, substance abuse, economic insecurity, and a largely transient workforce as contributing to increased violence against Native women in communities near fossil fuel infrastructure.”

“It creates this culture of using and abuse,” said Annita Lucchesi, executive director of the Sovereign Bodies Institute. “If you can use and abuse the water and land, you can use and abuse the people around you too.”

Project Censored concluded, “As a result of limited news coverage, the United States is far from a national reckoning on its crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.”

2. Monsanto “Intelligence Center” Targeted Journalists and Activists

In its fight to avoid liability for causing cancer, the agricultural giant Monsanto (now owned by Bayer) created an “intelligence fusion center” to “monitor and discredit” journalists and activists, Sam Levin reported for *The Guardian* in August 2019.

“More than 18,000 people have filed suit against Monsanto, alleging that exposure to Roundup [weedkiller] caused non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and that Monsanto covered up the risks by manipulating scientific data and silencing critics,” *the Hill* summarized. “The company has lost three high-profile cases in the past year, and Bayer is reportedly offering \$8 billion to settle all outstanding claims.”

“Monsanto adopted a multi-pronged strategy to target Carey Gillam, a Reuters journalist who investigated the company’s weed killer,” *The Guardian* reported.

This took place while also targeting Neil Young (who released a 2015 record, *The Monsanto Years*), and creating a massive, multi-million dollar spying and disinformation campaign targeting journalists writing about it, as well as scientists and advocates exposing the risks its product posed. Cre-

ating a covert army of seemingly neutral allies to attack its critics was central to Monsanto’s strategy.

The Guardian’s report was based on internal documents (primarily from 2015 to 2017) released during trial. They showed that “Monsanto planned a series of ‘actions’ to attack a book authored by Gillam prior to its release, including writing ‘talking points’ for ‘third parties’ to criticize the book and directing ‘industry and farmer customers’ on how to post negative reviews.”

In addition, Monsanto paid Google to skew search results promoting criticism of Gilliam’s work on Monsanto, and they discussed strategies for pressuring Reuters with the goal of getting her reassigned. The company “had a ‘Carey Gillam Book’ spreadsheet, with more than 20 actions dedicated to opposing her book before its publication.” They also “wrote a lengthy report about singer Neil Young’s anti-Monsanto advocacy, monitoring his impact on social media, and at one point considering ‘legal action.’”

The entire pool of journalists covering the third trial was also targeted in a covert influence operation, Paul Thacker reported for *The Huffington Post*. A purported “freelancer for the BBC” schmoozed other reporters, trying to steer them toward writing stories critical of the plaintiffs suing Monsanto. Their curiosity aroused, they discovered that “her LinkedIn account said she worked for FTI Consulting, a global business advisory firm that Monsanto and Bayer, Monsanto’s parent company, had engaged for consulting,” and she subsequently went into a digital disappearing act.

“FTI staff have previously attempted to obtain information under the guise of journalism,” Thacker added. “In January, two FTI consultants working for Western Wire — a ‘news and analysis’ website backed by the oil and gas trade group Western Energy Alliance — attempted to question an attorney who represents communities suing Exxon over climate change.”

Nor was FTI alone.

“Monsanto has also previously employed shadowy networks of consultants, PR firms, and front groups to spy on and influence reporters,” Thacker wrote. “And all of it appears to be part of a pattern at the company of using a variety of tactics to intimidate, mislead and discredit journalists and critics.”

“Monsanto officials were repeatedly worried about the release of documents on their financial relationships with scientists that could support the allegations they were ‘covering up unflattering research,’” *The Guardian* noted.

At the same time, they tried to attack

Continued on next page »



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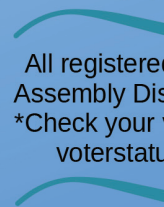
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critics as “anti-science.”

“The internal communications add fuel to the ongoing claims in court that Monsanto has ‘bullied’ critics and scientists and worked to conceal the dangers of glyphosate, the world’s most widely used herbicide,” it summed up.

“Monsanto’s campaign to monitor and discredit journalists and other critics has received almost no corporate news coverage,” *Project Censored* notes.

A rare exception was a June 2019, ABC News report which nonetheless “consistently emphasized the perspective of Monsanto and Bayer.”

3. U.S. Military — A Massive, Hidden Contributor to Climate Crisis

It’s said that an army travels on its stomach, but the Army itself has said, “Fuel is the ‘blood of the military,’” as quoted in a study, *Hidden carbon costs of the ‘everywhere war’* by Oliver Belcher, Patrick Bigger, Ben Neimark, and Cara Kennelly, who subsequently summarized their findings for *The Conversation* in June 2019.

The U.S. military is “one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries,” they wrote.

If it were a country, it would rank as “the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world.”

Studies of greenhouse gas emissions usually focus on civilian use, but the U.S. military has a larger carbon footprint than any civilian corporation in the world.

“The U.S. military’s climate policy remains fundamentally contradictory,” their study notes.

On the one hand, “The U.S. military sees climate change as a ‘threat multiplier,’ or a condition that will exacerbate other threats, and is fast becoming one of the leading federal agencies in the United States to invest in research and adoption of renewable energy [but] it remains the largest single institutional consumer of hydrocarbons in the world [and] this dependence on fossil fuels is unlikely to change as the USA continues to pursue open-ended operations around the globe.”

While the military has invested in developing biofuels, “the entire point of these fuels is that they are ‘drop-in’ – they can be used in existing military kit – which means that, whenever convenient or cheaper, the infrastructure is already in place to undo whatever marginal gains have been made in decarbonisation.”

Things will only get worse.

“There is no shortage of evidence that

the climate is on the brink of irreversible tipping points,” the study notes. “Once past those tipping points, the impacts of climate change will continue to be more intense, prolonged and widespread, giving cover to even more extensive U.S. military interventions.”

Understanding the military’s climate impact requires a systems approach.

“We argue that to account for the U.S. military as a major climate actor, one must understand the logistical supply chain that makes its acquisition and consumption of hydrocarbon-based fuels possible,” the study states. “We show several ‘path dependencies’ – warfighting paradigms, weapons systems, bureaucratic requirements and waste – that are put in place by military supply chains and undergird a heavy reliance on carbon-based fuels by the U.S. military for years to come.”

Data for their study was difficult to get.

“A loophole in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol exempted the United States from reporting military emissions,” *Project Censored* explains. “Although the Paris Accord closed this loophole, Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger noted that, ‘with the Trump administration due to withdraw from the accord in 2020, this gap . . . will return.’” They only obtained fuel purchase data through multiple Freedom of Information Act requests.

Finally, by way of conclusions, *Project Censored* stated:

Noting that “action on climate change demands shuttering vast sections of the military machine,” Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger recommended that “money spent procuring and distributing fuel across the U.S. empire” be reinvested as “a peace dividend, helping to fund a Green New Deal in whatever form it might take.”

Not surprisingly the report had received “little to no corporate news coverage” as of May 2020, beyond scattered republication their *Conversation* piece.

4. Congressional Investments and Conflicts of Interest

Exposition, political corruption and conflicts of interest are age-old staples of journalism. So, it’s notable that two of the most glaring, far-reaching examples of congressional conflicts of interest in the Trump era have been virtually ignored by corporate media: Republican’s support for the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and bipartisan failure to act on catastrophic climate change.

“The cuts likely saved members of Congress hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes collectively, while the corporate tax cut hiked the value of their holdings,” Peter Cary of the Center for Public Integrity reported for Vox in January 2020.

It was sold as a middle-class tax cut that would benefit everyone.

“Promises that the tax act would boost investment have not panned out,” he noted. “Corporate investment is now at lower levels than before the act passed, according to the Commerce Department.”

Once again, ‘trickle down tax cuts’ didn’t trickle down.

“The tax law’s centerpiece is its record cut in the corporate tax rate, from 35 percent to 21 percent,” Cary wrote. “At the time of its passage, most of the bill’s Republican supporters said the cut would result in higher wages, factory expansions, and more jobs. Instead, it was mainly exploited by corporations, which bought back stock and raised dividends.”

Buybacks exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time ever, the year after the cuts were passed, and dividends topped a record \$1.3 trillion high.

The benefits to Congressional Republicans were enormous.

“The 10 richest Republicans in Congress in 2017 who voted for the tax bill held more than \$731 million in assets, almost two-thirds of which were in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other instruments,” which benefitted handsomely as a result of their votes that “doled out nearly \$150 billion in corporate tax savings in 2018 alone,” Cary noted. “All but one of the 47 Republicans who sat on the three key committees overseeing the drafting of the tax bill own stocks and stock mutual funds.

“Democrats also stood to gain from the tax bill, though not one voted for it,” he wrote. “All but 12 Republicans voted for the tax bill.”

Two special features deserve notice. First is a newly created 20 percent deduction for income from ‘pass-through’ businesses, or smaller, single-owner corporations.

“At least 22 of the 47 members of the House and Senate tax-writing committees have investments in pass-through businesses,” *Project Censored* noted.

Second was a provision allowing real estate companies with relatively few employees — like the Trump organization — to take a 20 percent deduction usually reserved for larger businesses with sizable payrolls.

“Out of the 47 Republicans responsible for drafting the bill, at least 29 held real estate interests at the time of its passage,” *Project Censored* pointed out.

As to the second major conflict, “members of the U.S. Senate are heavily invested in the fossil fuel companies that drive the current climate crisis, creating a conflict between those senators’ financial interests as investors and their responsibilities as elected representatives,” *Project Censored*

wrote.

“Twenty-nine U.S. senators and their spouses own between \$3.5 million and \$13.9 million worth of stock in companies that extract, transport, or burn fossil fuels, or provide services to fossil fuel companies,” Donald Shaw reported for *Sludge* in September 2019.

While unsurprising on the Republican side, this also includes two key Democrats. Sen. Tom Carper, of Delaware, is the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has “up to \$310,000 invested in more than a dozen oil, gas, and utility companies, as well as mutual funds with holdings in the fossil fuel industry,” Shaw reported.

But his record is not nearly as questionable as Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who “owns between \$1 million and \$5 million worth of non-public stock in a family coal business, Enersystems,” and reported earning “between \$100,001 and \$1 million” in reported dividends and interest in 2018, plus \$470,000 in ‘ordinary business income,” Shaw reported.

His support for the industry was significant: Manchin was the only Democrat to vote against an amendment to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling in 2017, and he was one of just three Democrats to vote against an amendment to phase out taxpayer subsidies for coal, oil, and gas producers in 2016. Manchin has also voted to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, expedite the approval process for natural gas pipelines, and override an Obama administration rule requiring coal companies to protect groundwater from toxic coal mining waste.

While there has been critical coverage of 2017 tax cuts, this has not included coverage of lawmakers’ personal profiting, *Project Censored* noted.

“In addition, despite the significant conflicts of interest exposed by Donald Shaw’s reporting for *Sludge*, the alarming facts about U.S. senators’ massive investments in the fossil fuel industry appear to have gone completely unreported in the corporate press.”

5. Inequality Kills: Gap between Richest and Poorest Americans Largest in 50 Years

“In public health, decades of research are coming to a consensus: Inequality kills,” DePaul University sociologist Fernando De Maio wrote for *Truthout* in December 2019.

Even before COVID-19, his research added fine-grained evidence of broad trends highlighted in three prominent government-

tal reports: the gap between rich and poor Americans had grown larger than ever in half a century, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 annual survey, with dramatic evidence of its lethal impact: people in the poorest quintile die at twice the rate as those in the richest quintile, according to a report by the Congressional General Accounting Office. And, this is partly because job-related deaths are increasingly rooted in the physical and psychological toll of low-wage work, as opposed to on-the-job accidents, as documented by the United Nations' International Labor Organization.

All these conditions were made worse by COVID-19, but they could have been seen before the pandemic struck — if only the information hadn't been censored by the corporate media, as *Project Censored* noted:

As of May 2020, Project Censored has not been able to identify any corporate news coverage on the GAO or Census Bureau reports on inequality and premature mortality, or on the ILO report about work-related illnesses, accidents, and deaths that take place when workers are off-duty.

The August 2019 GAO report was based on health and retirement surveys conducted by the Social Security Administration in 1992 and 2014, looking at those between 51 and 61 years old in 1992, and dividing them into five wealth quintiles.

"[T]he GAO found that nearly half of those (48 percent) in the poorest quintile died before 2014, when they would have been between 73 and 83 years old. Of the wealthiest quintile, only a quarter (26 percent) died," explained Patrick Martin, writing for the World Socialists Website

Death rates increased for each quintile as the level of wealth declined.

It's at the level of cities and communities "that the most striking links between inequality and health can be detected," De Maio wrote. "At the city level, life expectancy varies from a low of 71.4 years in Gary, Indiana, to a high of 84.7 in Newton, Massachusetts — a gap of more than 13 years."

And at the community level, "In Chicago, there is a nine-year gap between the life expectancy for Black and white people. This gap amounts to more than 3,000 'excess deaths'" among black Chicagoans, due to "heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. All of these are conditions that an equitable health care system would address," he concluded.

"The poorest Americans are also more likely than their rich counterparts to face illness or premature death due to the inherent dangers of low-wage work," *Project Censored* noted.

"In 2019, you no longer have to hang

from scaffolding to risk your life on the job," María José Carmona wrote for Inequality.org. "Precariousness, stress, and overwork can also make you sick, and even kill you, at a much higher rate than accidents."

She reported on an ILO story that found that less than 14 percent of the 7500 people who die "due to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions every day" die from workplace accidents.

The greatest risk comes from "increasing pressure, precarious contracts, and working hours incompatible with life, which, bit by bit, continue to feed the invisible accident rate that does not appear in the news," Carmona wrote. "The most vulnerable workers are those employed on a temporary or casual basis, those subcontracted through agencies and the false self-employed. ILO data shows the rate of accidents for these employees to be much higher than for any others."

As of May 2020, *Project Censored* has not been able to identify any corporate news coverage on the GAO or Census Bureau reports on inequality and premature mortality, or on the ILO report about work-related illnesses, accidents and deaths that take place when workers are off-duty.

6. Shadow Network of Conservative Outlets Emerges to Exploit Faith in Local News

In late October 2019, Carol Thompson reported in the *Lansing State Journal* that, "Dozens of websites branded as local news outlets launched throughout Michigan this fall ... promising local news but also offering political messaging." The websites' 'About us' sections "say they are published by Metric Media LLC, a company that aims to fill the 'growing void in local and community news after years of steady disinvestment in local reporting by legacy media.'" Thompson wrote, but it soon emerged that they weren't filling that void with locally-generated news, and the 40 or so sites Thompson found in Michigan were just the tip of the iceberg.

A follow-up investigation by *The Michigan Daily* reported that "just this past week, additional statewide networks of these websites have sprung up in Montana and Iowa," which was followed by a December 2019 report by the *Columbia Journalism Review*, revealing a network of 450 websites run by five corporate organizations in twelve states that "mimic the appearance and output of traditional news organizations" in order to "manipulate public opinion by exploiting faith in local media."

Continued on next page »



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All were associated with conservative businessman Brian Timpone.

“In 2012, Timpone’s company Journatic, an outlet known for its low-cost automated story generation, which became known as ‘pink slime journalism,’ attracted national attention and outrage for faking bylines and quotes, and for plagiarism,” *CJR*’s Priyanjana Bengani reported. Journatic was later rebranded as Locality Labs, whose content ran on the Metric Media websites.

“The different websites are nearly indistinguishable, sharing identical stories and using regional titles,” *Michigan Daily* reported. “The only articles with named authors contain politically skewed content. The rest of the articles on the sites are primarily composed of press releases from local organizations and articles written by the Local Labs News Service.”

“Despite the different organization and network names, it is evident these sites are connected,” Bengani wrote. “Other than simply sharing network metadata as described above, they also share bylines (including ‘Metric Media News Service’ and ‘Local Labs News Service’ for templated stories), servers, layouts and templates.”

Using a suite of investigative tools, *CJR* was able to identify at least 189 sites in 10 states run by Metric Media — all created in 2019 — along with 179 run by Franklin Archer (with Timpone’s brother Michael as CEO).

“We tapped into the RSS feeds of these 189 Metric Media sites,” over a period of two weeks, Bengani wrote, “and found over fifteen thousand unique stories had been published (over fifty thousand when aggregated across the sites), but only about a hundred titles had the bylines of human reporters.” That’s well below 1% with a byline—much less being local. “The rest cited automated services or press releases.”

“Their architecture and strategy is useful to understand the way they co-opt the language, design and structure of news organizations,” Bengani explained.

Automation can make them seem far more prolific than they really are, and can help build credibility.

“Potentially adding to the credibility of these sites is their Google search ranking: in the case of some of the websites set up in 2015-2016, we observed that once sites had gained ample authority, they appeared on the first page of Google Search results just below the official government and social media pages.”

So, the sites aim to fool people locally about the source of their “news,” and Google helps fool the world.

Although *The New York Times* did publish an article in October 2019 that credited the *Lansing State Journal* with breaking the story about pseudo-local

news organizations, *Project Censored* notes that, “Corporate coverage has been lacking.... The *Columbia Journalism Review*’s piece expands on the breadth and scope of previous coverage, but its findings do not appear to have been reported by any of the major establishment news outlets.”

7. Underreporting of Missing and Victimized Black Women and Girls

Black women and girls go missing in the United States at a higher rate than that of their white counterparts. And, that very fact goes missing, too.

“A 2010 study about the media coverage of missing children in the United States discovered that only 20 percent of reported stories focused on missing Black children despite it corresponding to 33 percent of the overall missing children cases,” Carma Henry reported for the *Westside Gazette* in February 2019.

But it’s only getting worse.

“A 2015 study discussed in the *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice* found that the disparity listed in the 2010 study between the reportage and the reality of missing Black children had increased substantially,” *Project Censored* noted: 35 percent of missing children cases vs. just 7 percent of media stories.

That discussion appeared in a paper that made two other pertinent points. First, that Black criminal perpetrators are over-represented in the media, while Black victims are underrepresented, and second, that “because racial minorities are identified as criminals more often than not, non-minorities develop limited empathy toward racial minorities who are often perceived as offenders.”

Non-minorities in the media are obviously not exempt.

“Media coverage is often vital in missing person cases because it raises community awareness and can drive funding and search efforts that support finding those missing persons,” *Project Censored* noted.

It went on to cite an illustrative extreme case:

In October 2019, “The *Atlanta Black Star* shed light on perhaps the most prolific offender against Black women and girls in recent history, Jason Roger Pope, who has been indicted on charges relating to human trafficking and child sex crimes,” *Project Censored* wrote. “Pope, a white South Carolina promoter and popular disc jockey better known as DJ Kid, has made claims suggesting he may have participated in the trafficking, assault and/or rapes of nearly seven hundred African American girls — primarily underaged — right up

until his arrest in August 2019.”

The arrest didn’t come out of the blue.

“Pope has police records going as far back as 2011 relating to sexual misconduct with minors. Yet outside of a few local news outlets, the corporate media has been silent on Pope’s crimes.”

Blacks are also over-represented as victims of sex trafficking, according to statistics from Human Trafficking Search: they account for more than 40 percent of confirmed victims compared to 13.1 percent of the population.

While there is some coverage from small independent sources, “this gap in coverage of missing Black women and girls has gone widely underreported,” *Project Censored* noted.

It cited two exceptions (one from ABC News, another from CNN).

“But, broadly, U.S. corporate media are not willing to discuss their own shortcomings or to acknowledge the responsibilities they neglect by failing to provide coverage on the search for missing and victimized Black women and girls.”

8. The Public Banking Revolution

The year 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the USA’s first publicly-owned state bank, the Bank of North Dakota (BND), and in October, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Public Banking Act, authorizing up to 10 similar such banks to be created by California’s city and county governments. In response, the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles both announced plans to do so. It was the culmination of a decade-long effort that began in the wake of the Great Recession that’s also been taken up in nearly two dozen other states. Beyond the benefits North Dakota has reaped in the past, such banks could have greatly assisted in responding to COVID-19’s economic devastation, and could yet help fund a just transition to a decarbonized future, along the lines of a Green New Deal.

Yet, despite California’s agenda-setting reputation, *Project Censored* notes that, “No major corporate media outlets appear to have devoted recent coverage to this important and timely topic.”

“The Bank of North Dakota was founded in 1919 in response to a farmers’ revolt against out-of-state banks that were foreclosing unfairly on their farms,” Ellen Brown, founder of the Public Banking Institute wrote for *Common Dreams*. “Since then it has evolved into a \$7.4 billion bank that is reported to be even more profitable than JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs, although its mandate is not actually to make a profit but simply to serve the interests of local North Dakota communities.”

“The state of North Dakota has six times as many financial institutions per capita

as the rest of the country and it’s because they have the Bank of North Dakota,” Sushil Jacob, an attorney who works with the California Public Banking Alliance told *The Guardian*. “When the great recession hit, the Bank of North Dakota stepped in and provided loans and allowed local banks to thrive.”

As a result, “North Dakota was the only state that escaped the credit crisis,” Brown told Ananya Garg, reporting for *Yes!* magazine. “It never went in the red, [had] the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the lowest foreclosure rate at that time.”

“There are two ways in which a state bank can fund state investment for a greener future,” Eric Heath wrote in an op-ed for *The Hill*. “First, the bank can provide loans, bonds and other forms of financing for investments to the state government and private organizations on better terms than those available in regular markets.”

Some such projects might not even be considered.

This is not because green investments are unprofitable, “but because their profits slowly accumulate and are widely shared across a community,” Heath explained. “Second, a public bank will improve a state’s fiscal health. By holding state deposits as assets, the bank’s profits can be returned to state coffers to fund direct state investment. Additionally, the activity of the state bank — which will prioritize investing state assets and extending credit within the state for the benefit of the state — will improve the state economy,” just as has happened in North Dakota.

A new surge of interest in public banking came out of the Standing Rock movement’s Dakota Access Pipeline protests. While individuals could easily withdraw from doing business with fossil fuel-financing banks — Wells Fargo, in this case — governments have no such similar options to meet all their banking needs.

In short, “From efforts to divest public employee pension funds from the fossil fuel industry and private prisons, to funding the proposed Green New Deal, and counteracting the massive, rapid shutdown of the economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, public banking has never seemed more relevant,” *Project Censored* wrote.

It’s a time-tested practical solution the corporate media refuses to discuss.

9. Rising Risks of Nuclear Power Due to Climate Change

As early as 2003, 30 nuclear units were either shut down or reduced power output during a deadly European summer heat-wave in Europe.

But almost two decades later, the

corporate media has yet to grasp that “Nuclear power plants are unprepared for climate change,” as Project Censored notes. “Rising sea levels and warmer waters will impact power plants’ infrastructure, posing increased risks of nuclear disasters, according to reports from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Truthout from September 2019,” they explain. Yet, “Tracking back to 2013, corporate news media have only sporadically addressed the potential for climate change to impact nuclear power plants.”

“Nuclear power is uniquely vulnerable to increasing temperatures because of its reliance on cooling water to ensure operational safety within the core and spent fuel storage,” Christina Chen wrote for NRDC.

In addition, Karen Charman, reporting for *Truthout*, noted that “nuclear reactors need an uninterrupted electricity supply to run the cooling systems that keep the reactors from melting down,” but this will be “increasingly difficult to guarantee in a world of climate-fueled megastorms and other disasters.”

Sea level rise — combined with storm surges — represents the most serious threat. That was the focus of a 2018 report by John Vidal from *Ensa*, a solutions-focused media outlet, which found that “at least 100 U.S., European and Asian nuclear power stations built just a few meters above sea level could be threatened by serious flooding caused by accelerating sea-level rise and more frequent storm surges.”

There have been more than 20 incidents of flooding at U.S. nuclear plants, according to David Lochbaum, a former nuclear engineer and director of the nuclear safety project at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

“The most likely [cause of flooding] is the increasing frequency of extreme events,” he told Vidal.

Yet, in January 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, decided

to weaken staff recommendations to reassess the adequacy of hazard preparations. In dissent, Commissioner Jeff Baran wrote that NRC would allow power plants “to be prepared only for the old, outdated hazards typically calculated decades ago when the science of seismology and hydrology was far less advanced.”

“As of September 2019, 444 nuclear reactors are operating in the world, with 54 under construction, 111 planned and 330 more proposed,” Charman reported.

“Many of the world’s new nuclear plants are being built on the coasts of Asian countries, which face floods, sea-level rise and typhoons,” Vidal wrote. “At least 15 of China’s 39 reactors in operation, and many of the plants it has under construction, are on the coast.”

“Nuclear stations are on the front line of climate change impacts both figuratively and quite literally,” leading climate scientist Michael Mann told Vidal. “We are likely profoundly underestimating climate change risk and damages in coastal areas.”

10. Revive Journalism with a Stimulus Package and Public Option

In late March, Congress passed and President Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus rescue package, including direct payments of \$1,200 per adult and more than \$500 billion for large corporations. Before passage, Craig Aaron, the president of Free Press, argued that a stimulus package for journalism was also urgently needed. “In the face of this pandemic, the public needs good, economically secure journalists more than ever,” separating fact from fiction, and holding politicians and powerful institutions accountable,” Aaron wrote in the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

Aaron’s organization, Free Press, placed journalism’s needs at \$5 billion in immediate emergency funds, “less than half of

one percent of a trillion-dollar recovery package” and asked that “Congress put a foundation in place to help sustain journalism over the long term.”

Aaron presented a three-pronged plan: First, “Doubling federal funds for public media,” not for *Downton Abbey* reruns, but “earmarked specifically for emergency support, education and especially local journalism.” For example, “The Los Angeles Unified School District teamed up with PBS SoCal/KCET to offer instruction over the airwaves while kids are out of school, with separate channels focused on different ages.”

Second, “Direct support for daily and weekly newsrooms,” which have lost tens of thousands of jobs over the past three decades. “Direct, emergency subsidies of say \$25,000 per newsgathering position could make sure reporters everywhere stay on the local COVID beat,” he wrote. “Just \$625 million would help retain 25,000 newsroom jobs.”

Third, “New investments in the news we need.... for a major investment in services that provide community information [and] to support new positions, outlets and approaches to newsgathering, [which could] prioritize places and populations that the mainstream outlets have never served well.”

Arguing that a “resilient and community-centered media system” is necessary to get through the pandemic, Aaron concluded, “Now is the time to act. We need significant public investments in all corners of the economy, and journalism is no exception.”

In an article in *Jacobin*, Media scholar Victor Pickard advanced a more robust proposal, for \$30 billion annually (less than 1.4 percent of the coronavirus stimulus package, *Project Censored* noted).

“On the question of cost, we must first remind ourselves that a viable press system isn’t a luxury — it’s a necessity,” he wrote. “Similar to a classic ‘merit good,’ journalism

isn’t a ‘want,’ but a ‘need. ... Democratic nations around the globe heavily subsidize the media while enjoying democratic benefits that put the U.S. to shame.”

Writing for *The Guardian*, just after the McClatchy newspaper chain bankruptcy was announced, Pickard noted that, “For many areas across the U.S., there’s simply no commercial option. The market has failed us.” And thus, “With market failure, journalism’s survival requires public options.”

The need was fundamental.

“All foundational democratic theories — including the first amendment itself — assume a functional press system. The fourth estate’s current collapse is a profound social problem.”

And he suggested a broad range of funding possibilities:

We could raise funds from taxing platforms like Facebook and Google, placing levees on communication devices, and repurposing international broadcasting subsidies. Other sources include spectrum sales and individual tax vouchers. We could leverage already-existing public infrastructures such as post offices, libraries and public broadcasting stations to provide spaces for local news production.

“While corporate news outlets have reported the ongoing demise of newspapers and especially local news sources, they have rarely covered proposals such as Aaron’s and Pickard’s to revitalize journalism through public funding,” *Project Censored* wrote. ●

Paul Rosenberg is an activist turned journalist who has written for the Christian Science Monitor, the Los Angeles Times, the Denver Post, Al Jazeera English, Salon.com, and numerous other periodicals. He has also written more than 300 book reviews. He has worked as an editor at Random Lengths News since 2002.

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sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence outside tribal jurisdiction, *YES! Magazine* reported.”

The House voted to expand tribal jurisdiction in such cases in its 2019 VAWA reauthorization, but, Ms. reported, “The bill is now languishing in the Senate, where Republicans have so far blocked a vote.”

Another facet of the problem explored by *Yes!* is the connection between the extractive fossil fuel industry and violence against Native women. The Canadian report “showed a strong link between extraction zones on the missing and murdered women crisis in Canada,” *Yes!* noted. “It specifically cited rotational shift work, sexual harassment in the workplace, substance abuse, economic insecurity, and a largely transient workforce as contributing to increased violence against Native women in communities near fossil fuel infrastructure.”

“It creates this culture of using and abuse,” said Annita Lucchesi, executive director of the Sovereign Bodies Institute. “If you can use and abuse the water and land, you can use and abuse the people around you too.”

Project Censored concluded, “As a result of limited news coverage, the United States is far from a national reckoning on its crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.”

2. Monsanto “Intelligence Center” Targeted Journalists and Activists

In its fight to avoid liability for causing cancer, the agricultural giant Monsanto (now owned by Bayer) created an “intelligence fusion center” to “monitor and discredit” journalists and activists, Sam Levin reported for *The Guardian* in August 2019.

“More than 18,000 people have filed suit against Monsanto, alleging that exposure to Roundup [weedkiller] caused non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and that Monsanto covered up the risks by manipulating scientific data and silencing critics,” *the Hill* summarized. “The company has lost three high-profile cases in the past year, and Bayer is reportedly offering \$8 billion to settle all outstanding claims.”

“Monsanto adopted a multi-pronged strategy to target Carey Gillam, a Reuters journalist who investigated the company’s weed killer,” *The Guardian* reported.

This took place while also targeting Neil Young (who released a 2015 record, *The Monsanto Years*), and creating a massive, multi-million dollar spying and disinformation campaign targeting journalists writing about it, as well as scientists and advocates exposing the risks its product posed. Cre-

ating a covert army of seemingly neutral allies to attack its critics was central to Monsanto’s strategy.

The Guardian’s report was based on internal documents (primarily from 2015 to 2017) released during trial. They showed that “Monsanto planned a series of ‘actions’ to attack a book authored by Gillam prior to its release, including writing ‘talking points’ for ‘third parties’ to criticize the book and directing ‘industry and farmer customers’ on how to post negative reviews.”

In addition, Monsanto paid Google to skew search results promoting criticism of Gilliam’s work on Monsanto, and they discussed strategies for pressuring Reuters with the goal of getting her reassigned. The company “had a ‘Carey Gillam Book’ spreadsheet, with more than 20 actions dedicated to opposing her book before its publication.” They also “wrote a lengthy report about singer Neil Young’s anti-Monsanto advocacy, monitoring his impact on social media, and at one point considering ‘legal action.’”

The entire pool of journalists covering the third trial was also targeted in a covert influence operation, Paul Thacker reported for *The Huffington Post*. A purported “freelancer for the BBC” schmoozed other reporters, trying to steer them toward writing stories critical of the plaintiffs suing Monsanto. Their curiosity aroused, they discovered that “her LinkedIn account said she worked for FTI Consulting, a global business advisory firm that Monsanto and Bayer, Monsanto’s parent company, had engaged for consulting,” and she subsequently went into a digital disappearing act.

“FTI staff have previously attempted to obtain information under the guise of journalism,” Thacker added. “In January, two FTI consultants working for Western Wire — a ‘news and analysis’ website backed by the oil and gas trade group Western Energy Alliance — attempted to question an attorney who represents communities suing Exxon over climate change.”

Nor was FTI alone.

“Monsanto has also previously employed shadowy networks of consultants, PR firms, and front groups to spy on and influence reporters,” Thacker wrote. “And all of it appears to be part of a pattern at the company of using a variety of tactics to intimidate, mislead and discredit journalists and critics.”

“Monsanto officials were repeatedly worried about the release of documents on their financial relationships with scientists that could support the allegations they were ‘covering up unflattering research,’” *The Guardian* noted.

At the same time, they tried to attack

Continued on next page »



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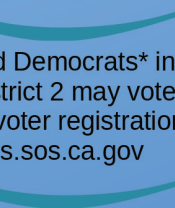
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critics as “anti-science.”

“The internal communications add fuel to the ongoing claims in court that Monsanto has ‘bullied’ critics and scientists and worked to conceal the dangers of glyphosate, the world’s most widely used herbicide,” it summed up.

“Monsanto’s campaign to monitor and discredit journalists and other critics has received almost no corporate news coverage,” *Project Censored* notes.

A rare exception was a June 2019, ABC News report which nonetheless “consistently emphasized the perspective of Monsanto and Bayer.”

3. U.S. Military — A Massive, Hidden Contributor to Climate Crisis

It’s said that an army travels on its stomach, but the Army itself has said, “Fuel is the ‘blood of the military,’” as quoted in a study, *Hidden carbon costs of the ‘everywhere war’* by Oliver Belcher, Patrick Bigger, Ben Neimark, and Cara Kennelly, who subsequently summarized their findings for *The Conversation* in June 2019.

The U.S. military is “one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries,” they wrote.

If it were a country, it would rank as “the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world.”

Studies of greenhouse gas emissions usually focus on civilian use, but the U.S. military has a larger carbon footprint than any civilian corporation in the world.

“The U.S. military’s climate policy remains fundamentally contradictory,” their study notes.

On the one hand, “The U.S. military sees climate change as a ‘threat multiplier,’ or a condition that will exacerbate other threats, and is fast becoming one of the leading federal agencies in the United States to invest in research and adoption of renewable energy [but] it remains the largest single institutional consumer of hydrocarbons in the world [and] this dependence on fossil fuels is unlikely to change as the USA continues to pursue open-ended operations around the globe.”

While the military has invested in developing biofuels, “the entire point of these fuels is that they are ‘drop-in’ – they can be used in existing military kit – which means that, whenever convenient or cheaper, the infrastructure is already in place to undo whatever marginal gains have been made in decarbonisation.”

Things will only get worse.

“There is no shortage of evidence that

the climate is on the brink of irreversible tipping points,” the study notes. “Once past those tipping points, the impacts of climate change will continue to be more intense, prolonged and widespread, giving cover to even more extensive U.S. military interventions.”

Understanding the military’s climate impact requires a systems approach.

“We argue that to account for the U.S. military as a major climate actor, one must understand the logistical supply chain that makes its acquisition and consumption of hydrocarbon-based fuels possible,” the study states. “We show several ‘path dependencies’ – warfighting paradigms, weapons systems, bureaucratic requirements and waste – that are put in place by military supply chains and undergird a heavy reliance on carbon-based fuels by the U.S. military for years to come.”

Data for their study was difficult to get.

“A loophole in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol exempted the United States from reporting military emissions,” *Project Censored* explains. “Although the Paris Accord closed this loophole, Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger noted that, ‘with the Trump administration due to withdraw from the accord in 2020, this gap . . . will return.’” They only obtained fuel purchase data through multiple Freedom of Information Act requests.

Finally, by way of conclusions, *Project Censored* stated:

Noting that “action on climate change demands shuttering vast sections of the military machine,” Neimark, Belcher, and Bigger recommended that “money spent procuring and distributing fuel across the U.S. empire” be reinvested as “a peace dividend, helping to fund a Green New Deal in whatever form it might take.”

Not surprisingly the report had received “little to no corporate news coverage” as of May 2020, beyond scattered republication their *Conversation* piece.

4. Congressional Investments and Conflicts of Interest

Exposition, political corruption and conflicts of interest are age-old staples of journalism. So, it’s notable that two of the most glaring, far-reaching examples of congressional conflicts of interest in the Trump era have been virtually ignored by corporate media: Republican’s support for the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and bipartisan failure to act on catastrophic climate change.

“The cuts likely saved members of Congress hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes collectively, while the corporate tax cut hiked the value of their holdings,” Peter Cary of the Center for Public Integrity reported for Vox in January 2020.

It was sold as a middle-class tax cut that would benefit everyone.

“Promises that the tax act would boost investment have not panned out,” he noted. “Corporate investment is now at lower levels than before the act passed, according to the Commerce Department.”

Once again, ‘trickle down tax cuts’ didn’t trickle down.

“The tax law’s centerpiece is its record cut in the corporate tax rate, from 35 percent to 21 percent,” Cary wrote. “At the time of its passage, most of the bill’s Republican supporters said the cut would result in higher wages, factory expansions, and more jobs. Instead, it was mainly exploited by corporations, which bought back stock and raised dividends.”

Buybacks exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time ever, the year after the cuts were passed, and dividends topped a record \$1.3 trillion high.

The benefits to Congressional Republicans were enormous.

“The 10 richest Republicans in Congress in 2017 who voted for the tax bill held more than \$731 million in assets, almost two-thirds of which were in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other instruments,” which benefitted handsomely as a result of their votes that “doled out nearly \$150 billion in corporate tax savings in 2018 alone,” Cary noted. “All but one of the 47 Republicans who sat on the three key committees overseeing the drafting of the tax bill own stocks and stock mutual funds.

“Democrats also stood to gain from the tax bill, though not one voted for it,” he wrote. “All but 12 Republicans voted for the tax bill.”

Two special features deserve notice. First is a newly created 20 percent deduction for income from ‘pass-through’ businesses, or smaller, single-owner corporations.

“At least 22 of the 47 members of the House and Senate tax-writing committees have investments in pass-through businesses,” *Project Censored* noted.

Second was a provision allowing real estate companies with relatively few employees — like the Trump organization — to take a 20 percent deduction usually reserved for larger businesses with sizable payrolls.

“Out of the 47 Republicans responsible for drafting the bill, at least 29 held real estate interests at the time of its passage,” *Project Censored* pointed out.

As to the second major conflict, “members of the U.S. Senate are heavily invested in the fossil fuel companies that drive the current climate crisis, creating a conflict between those senators’ financial interests as investors and their responsibilities as elected representatives,” *Project Censored*

wrote.

“Twenty-nine U.S. senators and their spouses own between \$3.5 million and \$13.9 million worth of stock in companies that extract, transport, or burn fossil fuels, or provide services to fossil fuel companies,” Donald Shaw reported for *Sludge* in September 2019.

While unsurprising on the Republican side, this also includes two key Democrats. Sen. Tom Carper, of Delaware, is the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has “up to \$310,000 invested in more than a dozen oil, gas, and utility companies, as well as mutual funds with holdings in the fossil fuel industry,” Shaw reported.

But his record is not nearly as questionable as Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who “owns between \$1 million and \$5 million worth of non-public stock in a family coal business, Enersystems,” and reported earning “between \$100,001 and \$1 million” in reported dividends and interest in 2018, plus \$470,000 in ‘ordinary business income,” Shaw reported.

His support for the industry was significant: Manchin was the only Democrat to vote against an amendment to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling in 2017, and he was one of just three Democrats to vote against an amendment to phase out taxpayer subsidies for coal, oil, and gas producers in 2016. Manchin has also voted to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, expedite the approval process for natural gas pipelines, and override an Obama administration rule requiring coal companies to protect groundwater from toxic coal mining waste.

While there has been critical coverage of 2017 tax cuts, this has not included coverage of lawmakers’ personal profiting, *Project Censored* noted.

“In addition, despite the significant conflicts of interest exposed by Donald Shaw’s reporting for *Sludge*, the alarming facts about U.S. senators’ massive investments in the fossil fuel industry appear to have gone completely unreported in the corporate press.”

5. Inequality Kills: Gap between Richest and Poorest Americans Largest in 50 Years

“In public health, decades of research are coming to a consensus: Inequality kills,” DePaul University sociologist Fernando De Maio wrote for *Truthout* in December 2019.

Even before COVID-19, his research added fine-grained evidence of broad trends highlighted in three prominent government-

tal reports: the gap between rich and poor Americans had grown larger than ever in half a century, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 annual survey, with dramatic evidence of its lethal impact: people in the poorest quintile die at twice the rate as those in the richest quintile, according to a report by the Congressional General Accounting Office. And, this is partly because job-related deaths are increasingly rooted in the physical and psychological toll of low-wage work, as opposed to on-the-job accidents, as documented by the United Nations' International Labor Organization.

All these conditions were made worse by COVID-19, but they could have been seen before the pandemic struck — if only the information hadn't been censored by the corporate media, as *Project Censored* noted:

As of May 2020, Project Censored has not been able to identify any corporate news coverage on the GAO or Census Bureau reports on inequality and premature mortality, or on the ILO report about work-related illnesses, accidents, and deaths that take place when workers are off-duty.

The August 2019 GAO report was based on health and retirement surveys conducted by the Social Security Administration in 1992 and 2014, looking at those between 51 and 61 years old in 1992, and dividing them into five wealth quintiles.

"[T]he GAO found that nearly half of those (48 percent) in the poorest quintile died before 2014, when they would have been between 73 and 83 years old. Of the wealthiest quintile, only a quarter (26 percent) died," explained Patrick Martin, writing for the World Socialists Website

Death rates increased for each quintile as the level of wealth declined.

It's at the level of cities and communities "that the most striking links between inequality and health can be detected," De Maio wrote. "At the city level, life expectancy varies from a low of 71.4 years in Gary, Indiana, to a high of 84.7 in Newton, Massachusetts — a gap of more than 13 years."

And at the community level, "In Chicago, there is a nine-year gap between the life expectancy for Black and white people. This gap amounts to more than 3,000 'excess deaths'" among black Chicagoans, due to "heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. All of these are conditions that an equitable health care system would address," he concluded.

"The poorest Americans are also more likely than their rich counterparts to face illness or premature death due to the inherent dangers of low-wage work," *Project Censored* noted.

"In 2019, you no longer have to hang

from scaffolding to risk your life on the job," María José Carmona wrote for Inequality.org. "Precariousness, stress, and overwork can also make you sick, and even kill you, at a much higher rate than accidents."

She reported on an ILO story that found that less than 14 percent of the 7500 people who die "due to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions every day" die from workplace accidents.

The greatest risk comes from "increasing pressure, precarious contracts, and working hours incompatible with life, which, bit by bit, continue to feed the invisible accident rate that does not appear in the news," Carmona wrote. "The most vulnerable workers are those employed on a temporary or casual basis, those subcontracted through agencies and the false self-employed. ILO data shows the rate of accidents for these employees to be much higher than for any others."

As of May 2020, *Project Censored* has not been able to identify any corporate news coverage on the GAO or Census Bureau reports on inequality and premature mortality, or on the ILO report about work-related illnesses, accidents and deaths that take place when workers are off-duty.

6. Shadow Network of Conservative Outlets Emerges to Exploit Faith in Local News

In late October 2019, Carol Thompson reported in the *Lansing State Journal* that, "Dozens of websites branded as local news outlets launched throughout Michigan this fall ... promising local news but also offering political messaging." The websites' 'About us' sections "say they are published by Metric Media LLC, a company that aims to fill the 'growing void in local and community news after years of steady disinvestment in local reporting by legacy media.'" Thompson wrote, but it soon emerged that they weren't filling that void with locally-generated news, and the 40 or so sites Thompson found in Michigan were just the tip of the iceberg.

A follow-up investigation by *The Michigan Daily* reported that "just this past week, additional statewide networks of these websites have sprung up in Montana and Iowa," which was followed by a December 2019 report by the *Columbia Journalism Review*, revealing a network of 450 websites run by five corporate organizations in twelve states that "mimic the appearance and output of traditional news organizations" in order to "manipulate public opinion by exploiting faith in local media."

Continued on next page »



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All were associated with conservative businessman Brian Timpone.

“In 2012, Timpone’s company Journatic, an outlet known for its low-cost automated story generation, which became known as ‘pink slime journalism,’ attracted national attention and outrage for faking bylines and quotes, and for plagiarism,” *CJR*’s Priyanjana Bengani reported. Journatic was later rebranded as Locality Labs, whose content ran on the Metric Media websites.

“The different websites are nearly indistinguishable, sharing identical stories and using regional titles,” *Michigan Daily* reported. “The only articles with named authors contain politically skewed content. The rest of the articles on the sites are primarily composed of press releases from local organizations and articles written by the Local Labs News Service.”

“Despite the different organization and network names, it is evident these sites are connected,” Bengani wrote. “Other than simply sharing network metadata as described above, they also share bylines (including ‘Metric Media News Service’ and ‘Local Labs News Service’ for templated stories), servers, layouts and templates.”

Using a suite of investigative tools, *CJR* was able to identify at least 189 sites in 10 states run by Metric Media — all created in 2019 — along with 179 run by Franklin Archer (with Timpone’s brother Michael as CEO).

“We tapped into the RSS feeds of these 189 Metric Media sites,” over a period of two weeks, Bengani wrote, “and found over fifteen thousand unique stories had been published (over fifty thousand when aggregated across the sites), but only about a hundred titles had the bylines of human reporters.” That’s well below 1% with a byline—much less being local. “The rest cited automated services or press releases.”

“Their architecture and strategy is useful to understand the way they co-opt the language, design and structure of news organizations,” Bengani explained.

Automation can make them seem far more prolific than they really are, and can help build credibility.

“Potentially adding to the credibility of these sites is their Google search ranking: in the case of some of the websites set up in 2015-2016, we observed that once sites had gained ample authority, they appeared on the first page of Google Search results just below the official government and social media pages.”

So, the sites aim to fool people locally about the source of their “news,” and Google helps fool the world.

Although *The New York Times* did publish an article in October 2019 that credited the *Lansing State Journal* with breaking the story about pseudo-local

news organizations, *Project Censored* notes that, “Corporate coverage has been lacking.... The *Columbia Journalism Review*’s piece expands on the breadth and scope of previous coverage, but its findings do not appear to have been reported by any of the major establishment news outlets.”

7. Underreporting of Missing and Victimized Black Women and Girls

Black women and girls go missing in the United States at a higher rate than that of their white counterparts. And, that very fact goes missing, too.

“A 2010 study about the media coverage of missing children in the United States discovered that only 20 percent of reported stories focused on missing Black children despite it corresponding to 33 percent of the overall missing children cases,” Carma Henry reported for the *Westside Gazette* in February 2019.

But it’s only getting worse.

“A 2015 study discussed in the *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice* found that the disparity listed in the 2010 study between the reportage and the reality of missing Black children had increased substantially,” *Project Censored* noted: 35 percent of missing children cases vs. just 7 percent of media stories.

That discussion appeared in a paper that made two other pertinent points. First, that Black criminal perpetrators are over-represented in the media, while Black victims are underrepresented, and second, that “because racial minorities are identified as criminals more often than not, non-minorities develop limited empathy toward racial minorities who are often perceived as offenders.”

Non-minorities in the media are obviously not exempt.

“Media coverage is often vital in missing person cases because it raises community awareness and can drive funding and search efforts that support finding those missing persons,” *Project Censored* noted.

It went on to cite an illustrative extreme case:

In October 2019, “The *Atlanta Black Star* shed light on perhaps the most prolific offender against Black women and girls in recent history, Jason Roger Pope, who has been indicted on charges relating to human trafficking and child sex crimes,” *Project Censored* wrote. “Pope, a white South Carolina promoter and popular disc jockey better known as DJ Kid, has made claims suggesting he may have participated in the trafficking, assault and/or rapes of nearly seven hundred African American girls — primarily underaged — right up

until his arrest in August 2019.”

The arrest didn’t come out of the blue.

“Pope has police records going as far back as 2011 relating to sexual misconduct with minors. Yet outside of a few local news outlets, the corporate media has been silent on Pope’s crimes.”

Blacks are also over-represented as victims of sex trafficking, according to statistics from Human Trafficking Search: they account for more than 40 percent of confirmed victims compared to 13.1 percent of the population.

While there is some coverage from small independent sources, “this gap in coverage of missing Black women and girls has gone widely underreported,” *Project Censored* noted.

It cited two exceptions (one from ABC News, another from CNN).

“But, broadly, U.S. corporate media are not willing to discuss their own shortcomings or to acknowledge the responsibilities they neglect by failing to provide coverage on the search for missing and victimized Black women and girls.”

8. The Public Banking Revolution

The year 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the USA’s first publicly-owned state bank, the Bank of North Dakota (BND), and in October, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Public Banking Act, authorizing up to 10 similar such banks to be created by California’s city and county governments. In response, the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles both announced plans to do so. It was the culmination of a decade-long effort that began in the wake of the Great Recession that’s also been taken up in nearly two dozen other states. Beyond the benefits North Dakota has reaped in the past, such banks could have greatly assisted in responding to COVID-19’s economic devastation, and could yet help fund a just transition to a decarbonized future, along the lines of a Green New Deal.

Yet, despite California’s agenda-setting reputation, *Project Censored* notes that, “No major corporate media outlets appear to have devoted recent coverage to this important and timely topic.”

“The Bank of North Dakota was founded in 1919 in response to a farmers’ revolt against out-of-state banks that were foreclosing unfairly on their farms,” Ellen Brown, founder of the Public Banking Institute wrote for *Common Dreams*. “Since then it has evolved into a \$7.4 billion bank that is reported to be even more profitable than JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs, although its mandate is not actually to make a profit but simply to serve the interests of local North Dakota communities.”

“The state of North Dakota has six times as many financial institutions per capita

as the rest of the country and it’s because they have the Bank of North Dakota,” Sushil Jacob, an attorney who works with the California Public Banking Alliance told *The Guardian*. “When the great recession hit, the Bank of North Dakota stepped in and provided loans and allowed local banks to thrive.”

As a result, “North Dakota was the only state that escaped the credit crisis,” Brown told Ananya Garg, reporting for *Yes!* magazine. “It never went in the red, [had] the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the lowest foreclosure rate at that time.”

“There are two ways in which a state bank can fund state investment for a greener future,” Eric Heath wrote in an op-ed for *The Hill*. “First, the bank can provide loans, bonds and other forms of financing for investments to the state government and private organizations on better terms than those available in regular markets.”

Some such projects might not even be considered.

This is not because green investments are unprofitable, “but because their profits slowly accumulate and are widely shared across a community,” Heath explained. “Second, a public bank will improve a state’s fiscal health. By holding state deposits as assets, the bank’s profits can be returned to state coffers to fund direct state investment. Additionally, the activity of the state bank — which will prioritize investing state assets and extending credit within the state for the benefit of the state — will improve the state economy,” just as has happened in North Dakota.

A new surge of interest in public banking came out of the Standing Rock movement’s Dakota Access Pipeline protests. While individuals could easily withdraw from doing business with fossil fuel-financing banks — Wells Fargo, in this case — governments have no such similar options to meet all their banking needs.

In short, “From efforts to divest public employee pension funds from the fossil fuel industry and private prisons, to funding the proposed Green New Deal, and counteracting the massive, rapid shutdown of the economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, public banking has never seemed more relevant,” *Project Censored* wrote.

It’s a time-tested practical solution the corporate media refuses to discuss.

9. Rising Risks of Nuclear Power Due to Climate Change

As early as 2003, 30 nuclear units were either shut down or reduced power output during a deadly European summer heat-wave in Europe.

But almost two decades later, the

corporate media has yet to grasp that “Nuclear power plants are unprepared for climate change,” as Project Censored notes. “Rising sea levels and warmer waters will impact power plants’ infrastructure, posing increased risks of nuclear disasters, according to reports from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Truthout from September 2019,” they explain. Yet, “Tracking back to 2013, corporate news media have only sporadically addressed the potential for climate change to impact nuclear power plants.”

“Nuclear power is uniquely vulnerable to increasing temperatures because of its reliance on cooling water to ensure operational safety within the core and spent fuel storage,” Christina Chen wrote for NRDC.

In addition, Karen Charman, reporting for *Truthout*, noted that “nuclear reactors need an uninterrupted electricity supply to run the cooling systems that keep the reactors from melting down,” but this will be “increasingly difficult to guarantee in a world of climate-fueled megastorms and other disasters.”

Sea level rise — combined with storm surges — represents the most serious threat. That was the focus of a 2018 report by John Vidal from *Ensis*, a solutions-focused media outlet, which found that “at least 100 U.S., European and Asian nuclear power stations built just a few meters above sea level could be threatened by serious flooding caused by accelerating sea-level rise and more frequent storm surges.”

There have been more than 20 incidents of flooding at U.S. nuclear plants, according to David Lochbaum, a former nuclear engineer and director of the nuclear safety project at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

“The most likely [cause of flooding] is the increasing frequency of extreme events,” he told Vidal.

Yet, in January 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, decided

to weaken staff recommendations to reassess the adequacy of hazard preparations. In dissent, Commissioner Jeff Baran wrote that NRC would allow power plants “to be prepared only for the old, outdated hazards typically calculated decades ago when the science of seismology and hydrology was far less advanced.”

“As of September 2019, 444 nuclear reactors are operating in the world, with 54 under construction, 111 planned and 330 more proposed,” Charman reported.

“Many of the world’s new nuclear plants are being built on the coasts of Asian countries, which face floods, sea-level rise and typhoons,” Vidal wrote. “At least 15 of China’s 39 reactors in operation, and many of the plants it has under construction, are on the coast.”

“Nuclear stations are on the front line of climate change impacts both figuratively and quite literally,” leading climate scientist Michael Mann told Vidal. “We are likely profoundly underestimating climate change risk and damages in coastal areas.”

10. Revive Journalism with a Stimulus Package and Public Option

In late March, Congress passed and President Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus rescue package, including direct payments of \$1,200 per adult and more than \$500 billion for large corporations. Before passage, Craig Aaron, the president of Free Press, argued that a stimulus package for journalism was also urgently needed. “In the face of this pandemic, the public needs good, economically secure journalists more than ever,” separating fact from fiction, and holding politicians and powerful institutions accountable,” Aaron wrote in the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

Aaron’s organization, Free Press, placed journalism’s needs at \$5 billion in immediate emergency funds, “less than half of

one percent of a trillion-dollar recovery package” and asked that “Congress put a foundation in place to help sustain journalism over the long term.”

Aaron presented a three-pronged plan: First, “Doubling federal funds for public media,” not for *Downton Abbey* reruns, but “earmarked specifically for emergency support, education and especially local journalism.” For example, “The Los Angeles Unified School District teamed up with PBS SoCal/KCET to offer instruction over the airwaves while kids are out of school, with separate channels focused on different ages.”

Second, “Direct support for daily and weekly newsrooms,” which have lost tens of thousands of jobs over the past three decades. “Direct, emergency subsidies of say \$25,000 per newsgathering position could make sure reporters everywhere stay on the local COVID beat,” he wrote. “Just \$625 million would help retain 25,000 newsroom jobs.”

Third, “New investments in the news we need.... for a major investment in services that provide community information [and] to support new positions, outlets and approaches to newsgathering, [which could] prioritize places and populations that the mainstream outlets have never served well.”

Arguing that a “resilient and community-centered media system” is necessary to get through the pandemic, Aaron concluded, “Now is the time to act. We need significant public investments in all corners of the economy, and journalism is no exception.”

In an article in *Jacobin*, Media scholar Victor Pickard advanced a more robust proposal, for \$30 billion annually (less than 1.4 percent of the coronavirus stimulus package, *Project Censored* noted).

“On the question of cost, we must first remind ourselves that a viable press system isn’t a luxury — it’s a necessity,” he wrote. “Similar to a classic ‘merit good,’ journalism

isn’t a ‘want,’ but a ‘need. ... Democratic nations around the globe heavily subsidize the media while enjoying democratic benefits that put the U.S. to shame.”

Writing for *The Guardian*, just after the McClatchy newspaper chain bankruptcy was announced, Pickard noted that, “For many areas across the U.S., there’s simply no commercial option. The market has failed us.” And thus, “With market failure, journalism’s survival requires public options.”

The need was fundamental.

“All foundational democratic theories — including the first amendment itself — assume a functional press system. The fourth estate’s current collapse is a profound social problem.”

And he suggested a broad range of funding possibilities:

We could raise funds from taxing platforms like Facebook and Google, placing levees on communication devices, and repurposing international broadcasting subsidies. Other sources include spectrum sales and individual tax vouchers. We could leverage already-existing public infrastructures such as post offices, libraries and public broadcasting stations to provide spaces for local news production.

“While corporate news outlets have reported the ongoing demise of newspapers and especially local news sources, they have rarely covered proposals such as Aaron’s and Pickard’s to revitalize journalism through public funding,” *Project Censored* wrote. ●

Paul Rosenberg is an activist turned journalist who has written for the Christian Science Monitor, the Los Angeles Times, the Denver Post, Al Jazeera English, Salon.com, and numerous other periodicals. He has also written more than 300 book reviews. He has worked as an editor at Random Lengths News since 2002.

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NCJ ON THE TABLE



Larrupin Sauce, a staple of Humboldt cupboards, vanished briefly from local stores.
File

The Missing Mustard

How a perfect storm emptied shelves of Larrupin Dill Sauce

By Emily McCollum

onthetable@northcoastjournal.com

Earlier last year, the toilet paper shortage made headlines across the country but another shortage became a pressing but silent issue across Humboldt County: the Larrupin Dill Sauce shortage. Confusion over who makes it, combined with the pandemic, historic California wildfires, food shortages, lockdowns, power shutoffs and other anomalies the last few years have thrown at us, have caused the sauce to temporarily disappear off of store shelves.

The scarcity and local popularity of this sweet, herby condiment staple amid panic buying and a run on comfort food led people to act out. From incessant phone calls to scams using the sauce's image and name, the Larrupin shortage caused some drama.

Larrupin Café founder Dixie Gorrell and her partner Per Ingelsberg were originally from the Midwest and started the restaurant in Westhaven until moving to

Trinidad, taking over the former Colonial Inn bed and breakfast. Given Ingelsberg's Scandinavian heritage, the Nordic roots of the sauce is similar to hovmästarsås, a common element of Swedish smorgasbords. The sauce made its debut at the Larrupin Café in 1983. Since then, it has skyrocketed in popularity as an integral part of Humboldt food culture, spread on everything from bagels to salads. Eventually, growing demand resulted in its being manufactured independently from the café, which is under new ownership by Paul Fitzgerald.

The café is separate from the sauce business. Larrupin Goods, the sauce manufacturer, is operated by the original family owners, though it still allows the restaurant to use the recipe. To some Humboldt residents' likely surprise, Larrupin is manufactured in a co-packing plant in Sonoma, California, and distributed locally by Tomaso's. Lucas Aldinger, general manager



@northcoastjournal



Let's Be Friends

of Larrupin Goods, has been overseeing its making and bottling for the last 12 years.

"Due to the pandemic and everybody hoarding food, they're super busy and we are just temporarily out of stock," said Aldinger in November. "This happened two years ago when we had the Santa Rosa fire and power shutoff."

Humboldt resident and Larrupin lover Adam Webster found himself going from grocery store to grocery store in search of the missing mustard. "I cannot have a Reuben without Larrupin on it. It really kicks my sauerkraut game up a notch," said Webster. "These little comforts really make a difference when it comes to just handling the state of the world right now." Webster wasn't alone.

"There were just tons of calls and inquiries, I didn't realize how popular we were," said Aldinger. "People were sort of frantic and then the tendency for people to want to stock up, you know, it's like the toilet paper syndrome."

As people looked for online buying options, third-party stores have popped up on Amazon, selling the same little jar for more than double the usual retail price.

"I had a friend call me up and say, 'Hey, that's a great giveaway you're doing on Facebook,'" said Aldinger. "And I said, 'We don't have a Facebook page.'" Aldinger discovered that someone made a Larrupin Facebook page, gained a good following and created a fake contest for people to enter and win a prize. Scam artists all over the internet impersonate famous people, influencers or companies to get users' information. Evidently Larrupin is popular enough to be used as bait.

"I was probably getting five or six calls a day [about the giveaway], the majority from Humboldt County," said Aldinger.

The staff of the Larrupin Café has been getting more and more calls about the sauce since the shortage, too, all from people worried and curious over their missing mustard.

The sauce was back on track for distribution in early November, but demand and panic buying still left their spots on store shelves vacant until mid-December. Now that things have calmed down, you should be able to find Larrupin Dill Sauce in local stores again. It's a reminder of how fragile our manufacturing and distribution systems can be. It's perilous even for the most popular products.

"It just takes one piece of a supply chain to fall apart and you're out of business," said Aldinger. ●

Emily McCollum (she/her) is a student at Humboldt State University.

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NCJ TROPHY CASE

The Scoop

A sports reporter of a bygone era

By Rod Kausen

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As a 15-year-old student at Eureka High School in the roaring '20s, Laurence Beal got a job with the *Humboldt Times* newspaper as a part-time high school sports reporter and sports cartoonist, his passion at the time. He also answered phones, stuffed inserts and sold newspapers on the streets. By the age of 17, he was a high school dropout and full-time reporter for the paper. He needed a sports reporter's name, so he nicknamed himself.

"Scoop" Beal left the area briefly to pursue his passion in drawing and cartooning but was persuaded to come back to his old job in 1927. He stayed for more than four decades. His wife, June, later said, "He loved his job; he was interested in everything and he started work at 6 a.m. every day."

He wrote a column called Around the Town about local sports figures, covered all sports, did cartoon caricatures of local big wigs, became the city editor as well as sports editor, published a book and was an innovative promoter. In newspaper circles, Beal was a living legend.

The Harlem Globetrotters were a traveling exhibition team of exceptionally talented Black basketball players who could dunk, juggle balls and take unusual shots. They were as good as any NBA players at the time but it didn't allow Black players until 1950. The Harlem Globetrotters would come to town with one of their four teams, the West Coast Globetrotters, selling out high school arenas.

Satchel Page, the great Negro League baseball pitcher traveled with the Globetrotters, throwing out the first ball at basketball games. Page became acquainted with Beal, as they had similar outgoing personalities.

In the late '30s, the Globetrotter promoters signed for a Friday night game in Walla Walla, Washington, and a Saturday night game in Eureka. The Eureka gym was packed but the Globetrotters were a no-show. When they arrived the next day, fans were not happy and, due to contract issues, some of their best players bolted, including all-time basketball superstar Al "Runt" Pullens. Beal put the rest of the team up, got them home to Chicago and worked with Pullens to find other players

to make a knock off team. Along with some connections from another Black touring team, softball players the Sioux City Ghosts, Beal and Pullens put together a team, eventually named The Harlem Clowns.

The Clowns played more razzle dazzle and gag gimmicks than the Globetrotters, and became a bigger draw locally. Beal promoted them nationally and even on a tour in Japan from his home base in Eureka.

Eureka was one of the main boxing towns on the coast during the 1920s, through the depression and on for decades. A cigar in his mouth, Beal ran with the promoters and boxing crowd. His boxing write-ups were classic. In the late 1920s, a friend who drove a delivery truck told Beal about a "kid" out in Fieldbrook named Milton "Tiny" Abbott. As reluctant as initially Abbott was to box, he decided to try. He was a great guy with a big heart and crushing right hand who became known as "The Redwood Giant."

Tiny was a major local attraction as his solid muscular 6-foot-8-inch frame and size 16 shoes always brought the crowd to cheers when he entered the ring, scissor stepping over the top rope instead of pulling it up and stepping under per usual boxing etiquette. He could take a beating as his fans watched in awe. He would stand there taking it until he could sneak in a powerful right blow. He ran up a record of knockouts and became such a huge draw the promoters had to move the matches from the smaller Armory Hall to the Broadway Arena.

Max Baer was moving into the championship ranks in boxing in the Oakland area. He later became heavyweight champion and was portrayed as a much worse person than he was in life in the movie *Cinderella Man*. Baer was knocking everyone out in his path including top title contenders. The local boxing trainers got Abbott a fight with Baer in Oakland. In a rare loss, Baer was disqualified after he knocked Tiny down in the third round and hit him again as he was getting up (Baer later killed a man in the ring with the same tactic). A rematch of the two was scheduled two weeks after the first bout with an anticipated crowd of 8,500, standing room only.



Laurence "Scoop" Beal. Courtesy of the Times-Standard

Beal wanted to promote the fight back home. He had a ringside direct phone line installed at the Oakland Auditorium and called the fight blow by blow back to a large megaphone mounted at the newspaper office window in Eureka. Some 3,000 fans sprawled down the streets past the Eureka Inn, partying and listening. For the first time on the West Coast, a boxing match would be announced remotely.

Tiny matched Baer blow for blow for five rounds but, at the end of round five, Baer buckled him with a powerful left to the stomach as Abbott was saved by the bell. The official stopped the fight after Abbott answered the bell in the sixth round, launching Baer into the championship rung of his career. It was also the most successful promotion in North Coast history at the time and propelled Tiny Abbott to infamy.

That night, Tiny Abbott told Beal he'd win the next fight. "I won the first one in three and lost the next one in six. Third time is a charm." He never got another chance like that. He fought a few more times, once up in Eureka against Max's brother Buddy Baer, with Max in attendance. He lost. He never got to fight Max again and soon decided to go back to the ranch.

Beal promoted anything he could. Along with Don Terbush, another great longtime newspaper man, and Bigfoot hoaxer Ray Wallace, they promoted Bigfoot and tourism with a consistent idea: "Come to the North Coast, spend money, go find Bigfoot, buy a paper and read all about it."

Beal stayed on at the *Times-Standard*, moving up in ranks for almost 50 years, until he retired as the editor in 1971. He was a real newspaper man and sports promoter. The days of his kind of sports reporter are just a memory, but a good memory.

Rod Kausen (he/him) is a retired teacher and coach.

Smith River Best Bet for Green Water

By **Kenny Priest**

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If you're in pursuit of steelhead-green water this weekend, you'll probably need to head north. With the Chetco blown out for potentially another week, the Smith may be the only game in town for quite some time. It looks to be a little unstable through Saturday but is forecasted to remain at fishable levels. Friday looks to be marginal for drift-fishing but should be good for the plunkers. Locally, all stretches of the Eel, Van Duzen, Mad and Redwood Creek are currently blown out. A couple smaller storms will move through the area this week, keeping local rivers dirty through the weekend and well into next week. If you're looking get your steelhead fix this weekend, your best bet is to head north.

Weather ahead

According to Kathleen Zontos of Eureka's National Weather Service, there are a few more opportunities for rain this week. "The first system will arrive on Wednesday," said Zontos. "The Smith basin could see up to a half inch, and Humboldt will see between .5 and .75 inches. The next chance of rain will be late Thursday and will stick around through Friday. The Smith can expect 1 to 1.5 inches while Humboldt may see up to .75 inches. There is a chance of rain over the weekend but the models are showing that it may fall to the north. There are additional opportunities for rain on Monday and Tuesday in the Smith basin, but it probably won't add up to much."

The Rivers:

Smith River

Steelhead fishing is still pretty tough on the Smith, according to Mike Coopman of Mike Coopman's Guide Service. "The river was high on Tuesday and very few boats out. I did hear of a few caught by the plunkers. But overall, there just aren't

many around yet. They'll show when they show," Coopman added.

Chetco/Elk/ Sixes

Just as the Chetco was showing signs of getting good, the big New Year's Day rain blew everything out, reports Andy Martin of Wild Rivers Fishing. "Several boats got into hatchery steelhead on the lower end Jan. 1, while plunkers also were catching steelhead," said Martin. "The river blew out Sunday morning and will be too high all this week for drift boats. Expect plenty of fish throughout the system as it drops next week."

The Elk and Sixes also blew out Sunday, according to Martin. "The Elk should be fishable before the end of the week, but the Sixes will be high and muddy for a while. The Elk reached 6.5 feet. It fishes best around 4 feet or less. The lower Rogue was also just getting good on New Year's Day before it also blew out. Guide John Anderson got three steelhead anchoring and fishing MagLip plugs on Jan. 1," added Martin.

Eel River (main stem)

The main stem blew out Monday and will likely be off color until sometime late next week. Prior to blowing out, boats were getting zero to a couple chances per trip on adults. There are plenty of half-pounders around to keep you busy.

Eel River (South Fork)

The South Fork peaked at roughly 5,200 cubic feet per second early Tuesday morning, running high and muddy. After a couple smaller rises later in the week, it could be fishable early next week, predicted to be around 1,400 cfs by Sunday morning.



Ten-year-old Asha Quinlan, of Arcata, landed this nice hatchery steelhead Dec. 31, 2020, while fishing the Mad River.

Photo by Richard Burrow.

Van Duzen

The Duzen hit nearly 6,000 cfs on Monday evening and will likely be muddy through the week and weekend. Should have plenty of fresh steelhead around once it starts to turn green.

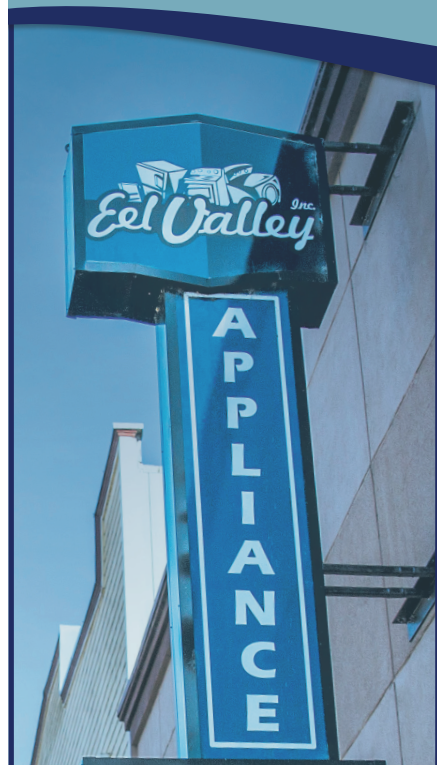
Mad River

The Mad has been the most consistent steelhead producer in Humboldt and even that has been slow, according to Justin Kelly of Eureka's RMI Outdoors. He said, "The river blew out on Monday and, prior to that, it had been pretty quiet. You had to move around until you found something. It was slow for the boats as well; they were lucky to get a fish per boat over the weekend. There just wasn't a lot of fish around, hopefully these rises will bring in a bunch." With more rain on the way, the Mad will be off color through the weekend.

Read the complete fishing roundup at www.northcoastjournal.com.

Kenny Priest (he/him) operates Fishing the North Coast, a fishing guide service out of Humboldt specializing in salmon and steelhead. Find it on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and www.fishingthenorthcoast.com. For up-to-date fishing reports and North Coast river information, email kenny@fishingthenorthcoast.com

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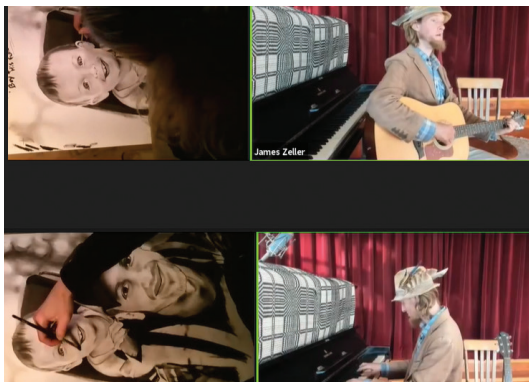


Calendar Jan. 7 – 14, 2021



Submitted

Roll it! The third annual **Rotary Yahtzee Tournament** is coming to you live via **Zoom** on **Saturday, Jan. 9** from **6 to 8 p.m.** Shake your can for fun, cash prizes and a very good cause: the Forgotten Initiative's work providing journey bags for Humboldt children in foster care. It all adds up to a fun night in. Tickets are \$25 for individual buy-in and available at www.swrotary.org or by calling 845-3459. Instructions for play and the game night Zoom log-in will be emailed to players after they register. Presented by Old Town Rotary and Southwest Eureka Rotary.



Submitted

Local musician **James Zeller** and local artist **Emily Reinhart** have been keeping the arts alive while hunkering down going all the way back to March when the lockdown went into effect. He's at the Sanctuary making music and she's at home in her studio creating art. Together they present **Art & Music - A Weekend Thing** on **Saturdays** from **2 to 4 p.m. online**. Join them as she creates live art and he performs covers and original songs. In lieu of tips or donations, they ask viewers to consider a donation to Food for People, as many in our community — artists especially — have been hit hard by the pandemic. Find their Saturday show on YouTube under "EmRart" or at www.facebook.com/EmRart.



Submitted

What a year 2020 was. PBS endeavored to create a platform for American voices during this transformative time, asking: What does it really mean to be an American today? The result, its storytelling project **PBS American Portrait** captures the remarkable story of 2020 through the voices of everyday people from every U.S. state and territory. In fact, KEET has been working with PBS to collect local stories for this series and some of those may be included. The four-part documentary series premieres on **Tuesday, Jan. 5** at **9 p.m.** on **KEET-TV Ch. 13** and continues each **Tuesday** at **9 p.m. through Jan. 26**. The series will also stream on all station-branded PBS platforms, including www.pbs.org and the PBS Video App.

7 Thursday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Original and limited edition local art auction open for online viewing and bidding until Jan. 31. Hosted by Carl Johnson Co. auctioneers. www.eurekachamber.com/art-biz. 442-3738.

DANCE

Dances of Brazil. 5:30 p.m. Redwood Raks World Dance Studio, 824 L St., Arcata. Learn Brazilian dances with instructors Rocío Cristal and María Vanderhorst. All levels. Limited to five people. Register online. \$15. talavera.rocio@gmail.com.

LECTURE

Klamath Mountains Winter Webinar Series. 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Series sharing stories of how geology, climate, fire and water help create the biological abundance of the Klamath Mountains. Register online. \$69 for the 10-part series, \$10 per class. www.backcountrypress.com/klamath/webinar-series/.

MUSIC

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Tune in for a heartwarming versions of classics in many genres and original tunes. Via Facebook and Instagram @creative.sanctuary. Free, donations encouraged. music@sanctuaryarcata.org. www.facebook.com/thesanctuaryarcata. (646) 245-6865.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. A Facebook group to join if you like fun group singing. Song of the day posted at 3 p.m., sing starts at 7 p.m. Free. www.facebook.com/groups/quarantinesingalong.

SPOKEN WORD

The Writers Lounge via Zoom. 7:30 p.m. Virtual World,

Internet, Online. A writing workshop geared toward stand-up and comedy. Zoom Room: 857 4217 6054. Password: writers. Join Zoom Meeting www.us02web.zoom.us/j/85742176054?pwd=dWp4UGVqaUVYQ0w-zekVnZkZ0VlMzZz09.

FOR KIDS

Fortuna Library Recorded Readings. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Hosted by the Fortuna Branch Library on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HumCoLibraryFortuna.

Virtual Junior Rangers. 11:30 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. North Coast Redwoods District of California State Parks offers kids' programs and activities about coast redwoods, marine protected areas and more, plus Junior Ranger Badges. Register online and watch live. www.bit.ly/NCRDVirtualJuniorRanger.

MEETINGS

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission. 5 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Submit comments via email or in Zoom chat with agenda item number included. Join Zoom meeting at www.us02web.zoom.us/j/5931453354?pwd=R2wxdzR4MFh0cjVhaUVaUVh-JZnJ6UT09 or call. Meeting ID: 593 145 3354. Passcode: Community. Also on Facebook live. hhr@co.humboldt.ca.us. www.facebook.com/HumCoHRC. (669) 900-6833.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. California State Parks' North Coast Redwoods District is broadcasting programs featuring tall trees and rugged seas from state parks via Facebook. Free. www.facebook.com/NorthCoastRedwoods.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. The three biggest hatchery steelhead win cash and prizes from sponsors and partners. Register at Bucksport, RMI Outdoors or online. Derby fees: adult \$35, youth \$20. www.ncgasa.org.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. This class offers pronunciation, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary, verb conjugations and common expressions. All levels welcome. Join anytime. Free. www.englishexpressempowered.com.

Restorative Movement. 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. SoHum Health presents classes focused on strength and mobility (Tuesday), and on relaxation and breath work (Thursday). Contact instructor Ann Constantino for online orientation. Free. annconstantino@gmail.com. www.sohumhealth.org. 923-3921.

8 Friday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

LECTURE

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Old & New. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Learn more about the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge with retired refuge manager Eric Nelson and current refuge manager Cashell Villa. Visit website for the Zoom link. Free. www.rras.org/home.aspx.

MUSIC

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

King Maxwell Quarantine Funk #9. 9-11 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. King Maxwell spins funk, soul, electro, disco, roller skating jams and boogie, and adds vocoder flavor. Free. arcatasoulpartycrew@gmail.com. www.youtube.com/watch?v=pssTRY5HLAk.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Shelter n Play. 6 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Public group on Facebook made up of locals. Open mic for all skill levels, all styles, everyone's welcome to watch or perform. Sign-ups Wednesdays at noon. www.facebook.com/groups/224856781967115.

EVENTS

The Curiosity Hour: Weekly Double Dose of Weird with Veve Decay. 8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. An evening of strange tales, live chats and parlor games hosted by Altar Ego: Curious Art & Fashion Design. www.facebook.com/events/939880849742122.

FOR KIDS

School-age Storytime. 11 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Hosted by the Arcata Branch Library via Zoom. To sign up, email sparsons@co.humboldt.ca.us or call 822-5954.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

A Call to Yarns. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. A weekly Zoom meetup for knitters and crocheters. Sign up using the Google form for an email invitation. Free. sparsons@co.humboldt.ca.us. forms.gle/CkdbZSbjbkZQej89. 822-5954.

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Tabata. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. SoHum Health presents online classes with short, high intensity cardio workouts. Contact instructor Stephanie Finch by email for a link to the class. Free. sfinch40@gmail.com. www.sohumhealth.com.

9 Saturday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

BOOKS

Reading in Place - An Online Reading Group. 1 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Sign up online for a Zoom meeting invite and the week's reading for discussion. www.forms.gle/zKymPvcDFDG7BJEP9.

MUSIC

Art & Music - A Weekend Thing. 2-4 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. A weekly collaboration of musical covers and original songs alongside live art production. On Facebook at facebook.com/EmRArt. emily@emilyreinhardt.com. www.facebook.com/EmRArt.

EmRArt with James Zeller. 2-4 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Cross-platform entertainment from remote locations. James Zeller plays jazz from Arcata, and Emily Reinhart lays charcoal on birch wood in Eureka. Watch via Facebook (www.facebook.com/EmRArt) or by YouTube. Free. emily@emilyreinhardt.com. www.youtube.com/channel/UCIclGc_-RErDvHWjNBsbhIQ.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

EVENTS

Club Triangle Streaming Saturdays. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Weekly online queer variety show. Submissions accepted daily. Post your art on social media and tag @clubtriangle. #coronoshebettadont. Free. www.facebook.com/clubtriangler.

Zoom Annual Rotary Yahtzee Tournament. 6-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Play for \$100-\$500 cash prizes and support the Forgotten Initiative's work to provide journey bags for Humboldt children in foster care. Sign up online or by phone. \$25. www.swrotary.org. 845-3459.

FOR KIDS

Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Hosted by the Arcata Branch Library via Zoom. To sign up, email sparsons@co.humboldt.ca.us or call 822-5954.

FOOD

Arcata Plaza Winter Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Every Saturday, rain or shine, Humboldt County farmers gather on the plaza to share their bounty. Current COVID safety guidelines online. Free. info@northcoastgrowersassociation.org. www.northcoastgrowersassociation.org. 441-9999.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

10 Sunday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet,

Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

COMEDY

Sunday Service Comedy Open Mic: ZOOM. 5 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Virtual stage-time with Pastor Paula for aspiring comics working out sets and trying to land jokes. Five-minute sets. Join the show at www.us02web.zoom.us/j/82295455754. Zoom room: 822 9545 5754. Password: comedy.

MUSIC

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

FOOD

Food Not Bombs. 4 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Free, hot food for everyone. Mostly vegan and organic and always delicious. Free.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

11 Monday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

MUSIC

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Tabata. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 8 listing.

12 Tuesday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

COMEDY

Savage Henry's BigFish Open Mic via Zoom. 9 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Enjoy or participate in some stand-up open-mic Zoom style. Five-minute sets. Zoom: www.us02web.zoom.us/j/86421967992 Password: comedy.

MUSIC

Daniel Nickerson Hosts the J Street Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Artists

give a one-hour program to connect, send healing music, educate on American music history, celebrate artists of color and more. Free, donations encouraged. music@sanctuaryarcata.org. www.facebook.com/thesanctuaryarcata.

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

EVENTS

Is Technology Damaging Our Native Youth?. noon. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Two Feathers Native American Family Services' virtual forum focused on technology and its effect on Native youth. Full agenda on website and Facebook. Reserve space at www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTN7F6N. Free. www.twofeathers-nafs.org.

FOR KIDS

Tuesday Storytime with Ms. Tamara. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Posted every Tuesday on Arcata Library's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Hum-CoLibraryArcata.

FOOD

Mobile Produce Pantry. Second Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Redway Baptist Church, 553 Redway Drive. Food for People's walk-up food distribution for those in need. Participants must wear face masks and maintain 6-foot social distancing. Free. www.foodforpeople.org. 445-3166.

MEETINGS

Local Homesharing Info Session. 1-1:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. If you have a spare bedroom and could use extra income or help around the house, Northcoast Homeshare (a program of Area 1 Agency on Aging) can connect you with a compatible housemate. Join the weekly 30-minute Zoom informational session. Free. homeshare@alaa.org. zoom.us/j/2673010045?pwd=eTJvajjXaWR4eEMwOUERQlpGZHBjZz09. 442-3763 ext. 213.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

Disability Peer Advocate Group. Second Tuesday of every month, 3 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Peer advocates supporting each other and furthering the disability cause. Email for the Zoom link. alissa@tilinet.org.

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Restorative Movement. 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

13 Wednesday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

BOOKS

On The Same Page Book Club. 5:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Online book club that meets on the

first Wednesday of the month on Zoom. Sign up using the Google form at www.forms.gle/bAsjdQ7hKGqEgJKj7. forms.gle/bAsjdQ7hKGqEgJKj7.

LECTURE

Meet the Expert. 5 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commissioner Cassandra Hesseltine interviews film industry professionals and discusses local filming. New videos posted to the commission's YouTube channel and social media. www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbPoRux8OJlzuLCUNIBxiw.

MUSIC

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

EVENTS

The Curiosity Hour: Weekly Double Dose of Weird with Veve Decay. 8 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 8 listing.

FOR KIDS

Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 9 listing.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Reel Genius Virtual Trivia. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Create a team via Facetime, Skype, Messenger, Hangouts etc., order some food and brews from the Madrone and play while dining outdoors, or enjoying takeout at home. Invite link will be posted prior to the event. www.facebook.com/events/657139721581557.

Tabata. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 8 listing.

Weekly Check-in with Rep. Huffman. Noon. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) will hold Facebook Live check-ins to engage with his constituents on the latest updates regarding the novel coronavirus pandemic and to answer questions about the federal response. More information at www.huffman.house.gov/coronavirus. Free. www.facebook.com/rephuffman.

14 Thursday

ART

ArtBiz Virtual Online Auction. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

DANCE

Dances of Brazil. 5:30 p.m. Redwood Raks World Dance Studio, 824 L St., Arcata. See Jan. 7 listing.

LECTURE

Klamath Mountains Winter Webinar Series. 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

MUSIC

James Zeller Hosts the J St. Regulars Radio Hour. 7-8

Continued on next page »

p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.
Quarantine Sing-a-long. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

SPOKEN WORD

The Writers Lounge via Zoom. 7:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

FOR KIDS

Fortuna Library Recorded Readings. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Virtual Junior Rangers. 11:30 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

OUTDOORS

Live from Behind the Redwood Curtain. Ongoing, 3-3:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Mad River Steelhead Derby. 6 a.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Ongoing. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Restorative Movement. 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. See Jan. 7 listing.

Heads Up ...

The city of Arcata seeks applicants for open seats on the Transactions and Use Tax Oversight Committee. Community members with interest or knowledge of budgets, finance, fiscal processes and relevant community needs are encouraged to apply. Drop applications off in a sealed envelope labeled "City Manager's Office" at the city's drop boxes, located in the city hall parking lot off of Seventh Street and next to the USPS mailbox outside city hall at 736 F St. Visit www.cityofarcata.org or call 822-5953.

The city of Arcata is offering curbside pickup and free delivery to all residents who purchase a compost bin. Backyard compost bins are available for \$25 by emailing the Environmental Services Department at eservices@cityofarcata.org or by calling 822-8184.

The city of Arcata is seeking community members for the Planning Commission. Applications may be dropped off, in a sealed envelope labeled "City Manager's Office," at the city's drop boxes in the city hall parking lot and next to the USPS mailbox outside city hall. Visit www.cityofarcata.org or call 822-5953.

The Humboldt Arts Council is distributing CARES Act relief-funded grants to aid local arts organizations serving socially vulnerable populations not eligible for direct CARES Act grants. Details and application at www.humboldtarts.org/cares-act-grant-application.

The county of Humboldt is seeking additional applicants for the 2020/2021 Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury. Visit www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov or call 269-1245. Interested parties may also complete, download and email an application to: GrandJuryApps@humboldt-court.ca.gov.

The Arcata Police Department is looking for Volunteer Patrol members. Contact Administrative Sgt. Brian Hoffman at 822-2428.

The city of Arcata seeks applicants for the Historic Landmarks Committee. Submit applications at the City Manager's Office at Arcata City Hall. Visit www.cityofarcata.org or call 822-5953.

Good Movies from the Bitter End of 2020

By John J. Bennett

screens@northcoastjournal.com

I have no intention to recap, relive or relitigate the year just past. I would not suggest I understand what happened to those of us who, so far, have survived. Further, I think anyone claims to is likely a liar, maybe a bigot and probably has something to do with attempts to overturn elections and block progress in all quarters.

Pretending trauma did not occur is no way to heal, of course, and I don't imply that I will or we should. The year 2020, the tail of which I fear we'll be riding for some time, should be probed and dissected, all of its cancerous innards isolated for further study so we — or some better smarter species — might learn from it, develop a cure for humanity. But that is not going to happen here, today or likely anytime soon.

And so it seems specious to offer some sort of Best-of, or Top-However-Many list. It has been a year of feeling, for most, trapped in amber, the business of movies included. A year of crazes, backlash and confusion, and, vitally, a year in which entertainment felt more personally important and less socially significant than ever in my lifetime. Almost all of us were and are desperate for the solace of the familiar and the rushing relief of new distractions, be it baking sourdough or bingeing *Tiger King* (regrettable, I think we can all now agree). But many of us have also sought out art and entertainment that, intentionally or not, somehow speaks to this moment, or at least tonally resonates with our often inarticulate feelings about it.

And, its persistent atavism perhaps finally rattled by undeniable global crisis, the entertainment-industrial complex began to evolve, to provide a little bit of everything in our time of need. (Unless you were looking for Marvel movies but we are not having that conversation right now.) Netflix was almost preternaturally well-positioned for the year that was, as previously discussed here. But it has been and will be the 800-pound gorilla, so it was only a matter of time before the universe



Walking into 2021.
The Wilds

knelt at its feet. And in all fairness, Netflix has given us as much forward-looking and meritorious content as it has salacious trash, so good on it. But a number of other industry leaders have stepped in to fill the void, providing more opportunities to spend or waste time than can be counted. Amazon continues to quietly produce and distribute an increasingly interesting slate of material, Disney elected to release the latest Pixar production for "free" on Christmas Day and, again as previously discussed, HBOMax will play host to all of Warner Bros. forthcoming major releases (unless some of the lawsuits do not go their way).

In looking back and deciding not to focus on looking back, I realized that the completely uncensored selection with which my wife and I closed out the year in its waning days serves as a better coda than I could have engineered. It reaches across a number of streaming platforms, formats and genres, including both new and not-as-new releases, and creates, for me, a montage of the moment/year/era that, while not offering any answers, gets at some sort of inscrutable emotional truth.

THE WILDS, an Amazon series that appears to be poised for a second season, crash lands a group of young women on a desert island (or in the ocean just off-shore), disrupting their trip to an ill-defined female-centric therapeutic workshop getaway. Things are immediately not as they seem, but neither we nor the castaways seem to have the full picture. Subverting the ubiquitous YA girls-in-peril paradigm of last decade, the show unspools the story of each of the troubled protagonists — of varying ethnic, religious, sexual and socio-economic backgrounds — to reinforce the notion that we can never assume we understand another's suffering. It is also a fun, twisty, moody thriller underpinned by a discomfiting synth-durge score. TV14. AMAZON.

SOUL, Pixar's aforementioned latest, has

been much discussed as perhaps "not for kids." More likely it's not for parents who shy from frank conversations about existence, but that is not for me to say. Like *Inside Out*, the movie strives to examine the oft-unexamined, in this case the nature of the soul and the meaning of life — yeah, just those things. Jamie Foxx stars as Joe, a band teacher and aspirant jazz pianist who finally gets his big break, only to die unexpectedly and awake as a soul en route to the Great Beyond. He subverts the process though, returning to Earth with a disembodied soul, 22 (Tina Fey), in tow. Fear not, it has a cute talking cat. PG. 100M. DISNEY+.

DEATH TO 2020, a Netflix production from the creators of *Black Mirror* (never seen it), is just what the title implies; the digital poster is a picture of a dumpster fire. With an Onion-esque acid tongue firmly in its cheek, it deploys Samuel L. Jackson as a fictionalized reporter to re-contextualize whatever-the-fuck that just was in heightened, sometimes chilling tones. It features more footage of the ex-president than I had previously seen, or would ever care to again. TVMA. 70M. NETFLIX.

MY OCTOPUS TEACHER. In an uncharacteristic move — perhaps in a moment of weakness/hope — we began the New Year with something that has been oft-recommended, but from which I have shied, possibly as a defensive tactic. Again from Netflix, it's about a South African documentarian who rediscovers his passion for life and work through a year-long relationship with an octopus. Sure, it is sentimental, the interview portions are occasionally stiff and the suspense is sometimes manufactured in editing. All of that is easily put aside if one simply sits with the amazing unknowableness of so much of the world. What was I saying earlier about some smarter species than us? 85M. NETFLIX. ●

John J. Bennett (he/him) is a movie nerd who loves a good car chase.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

List your class – just \$4 per line per issue! Deadline: Friday, 5pm. Place your online ad at **classified.northcoastjournal.com** or e-mail: **classified@northcoastjournal.com**

Listings must be paid in advance by check, cash or Visa/MasterCard. Many classes require pre-registration.

Dance/Music/Theater/Film

GUITAR/PIANO LESSONS. All ages, beginning & intermediate. Seabury Gould (707) 845-8167. (DMT -1230)

Fitness

SUN YI'S ACADEMY OF TAE KWON DO. Classes for kids & adults, child care, fitness gym & more. Tae Kwon Do Mon-Fri 5-6 p.m., 6-7 p.m., Sat 10-11 a.m. Come watch or join a class, 1215 Giuntoli Lane, or visit www.sunyisarcata.com, 825-0182. (F-1230)

50 and Better

OLLI ONLINE CLASSES: Shelter in place but stay connected with OLLI. Get more information or register @HSUOLLI (O-1230)

Spiritual

EVOLUTIONARY TAROT Ongoing Zoom classes, private mentorships and readings. Carolyn Ayres. 442-4240 www.tarotofbecoming.com carolyn@tarotofbecoming.com (S-1230)

SOTO ZEN MEDITATION Sunday programs and weekday meditation in Arcata locations; Wed evenings in Eureka, arcatazengroup.org Beginners welcome, call for orientation. (707) 826-1701 (S-1230)

Therapy & Support

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. We can help 24/7, call toll free 1-844 442-0711. (T-1230)

SEX/ PORN DAMAGING YOUR LIFE & RELATIONSHIPS? Confidential help is available. 707-825-0920, saahumboldt@yahoo.com (T-1230)

Vocational

ADDITIONAL ONLINE CLASSES – Are you looking for an online class? College of the Redwoods Community Education and Ed2GO have partnered to offer a variety of short term and career courses in an online format Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Detail/ArtMID/17724/ArticleID/4916/Additional-Online-Classes> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

FREE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE BEGINNING LITERACY WITH ESL CLASS visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE COMPUTER SKILLS CLASS visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE GED/HISET PREPARATION CLASSES visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE LIVING SKILLS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES CLASSES visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods at 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

FREE WORKPLACE SKILLS CLASSES visit <https://www.redwoods.edu/adulted> or Call College of the Redwoods 707-476-4520 for more information and to register. (V-0116)

INJECTIONS Jan 24, 2021 Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Register-for-Classes> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

IV THERAPY Jan 11-13, 2021 Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Register-for-Classes> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING SPECIALIST Online Info Meetings Jan 23 OR 28 2021 Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Detail/ArtMID/17724/ArticleID/5110/Medical-Billing-and-Coding-Specialist> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN Online Info Meetings Feb 6 OR 18, 2021 Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Detail/ArtMID/17724/ArticleID/3704/Pharmacy-Technician> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

REAL ESTATE CORRESPONDENCE Become a Real Estate Agent. Start Anytime! Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Real-Estate> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

VENIPUNCTURE Jan 31, 2021 Visit: <https://www.redwoods.edu/communityed/Register-for-Classes> or call College of the Redwoods at (707)476-4500 (V-0107)

Wellness & Bodywork

2021 AYURVEDA COURSES WITH TRACI WEBB & GUESTS. Online @ Ayurvedic Living School
* Ayurveda Foundations & Nutrition: Starts Jan 13. (Part 1 of Ayurveda Health & Life Coach Training)
* Ayurveda Herbalist Training: Starts Feb. 2
* "Ayurvedic Mentorship" Starts March 4
Learn ancient ayurvedic wisdom + modern psychology & life skills. Evolve Your Health, Relationships & Life. Launch a career aligned w/your purpose and passion! Ayurveda is the Nurturing Mother of All Medicines. Empowering the Feminine to Rise for 5000 Years! Details on website: www.ayurvedicliving.com
Email: info@ayurvedicliving.com (W-0121)

DANDELION HERBAL CENTER CLASSES WITH JANE BOTHWELL. Beginning with Herbs. January 20 - March 10, 2021, 8 Wed. evenings. Learn medicine making, herbal first aid, and herbs for common imbalances. Call or email for more info. 10-Month Herbal Studies Program. Feb - Nov 2021. Meets one weekend per month with three camping trips. Learn in-depth material medica, plant identification, flower essences, wild foods, formulations and harvesting. Register online www.dandelionherb.com or call (707) 442-8157. harvesting. Register online www.dandelionherb.com or call (707) 442-8157. (W-0121)

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice

Zachary Wilkinson, Wilkinson Hunting Club, for Stewart Family Ranch is entering into a private lands management program (PLM) contract with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), as per section 601, Title 14 CCR and Fish and Game codes 3400-3409. This PLM will be called the Wilkinson Hunting Club and will be specifically managed for black-tailed deer with a proposed hunting season that begins at the start of B-Zone general archery and continues until November 30th for late season tags. The property is in Humboldt County, Sections 10,11,12,13,14,15,23 & 24; Township 3S; Range 5E; Sections 6,7,18 & 19; Township 3S; Range 6E. In Trinity County, Sections 6,7,18 & 19; Township 3S; Range 6E; Sections 5,8,9,17 & 20; Township 3S; Range 6E and is 5376 acres in size. If you have any comments please submit them to NR PLM coordinator Pat Sater at 1530 Schwab St. Red Bluff, Ca. 96080 within 15 days of this publication.

1/7

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Pursuant to the California self-service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700et. seq.), notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held by the undersigned on Friday, January 22, 2021 @10:00 am, to satisfy the lien on personal property including but not limited to electronics, furniture, clothing, appliances, gardening equipment, tools and/or other miscellaneous items located at: SEAWOOD TERRACE STORAGE FACILITY, 700 SEA AVE EUREKA, CA 95503, (707) 444-3835 STORED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: #21 Dawn Alton. All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All items must be paid for at the time of sale by cash only. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed the day of sale.

Published 01/07/21 and 01/14/21 by Real Property Management Humboldt, (707) 444-3835. Contact name: Real Property Management Humboldt Contact location: Eureka, California, USA Contact phone: (707) 444-3835 Contact e-mail: support@realpm.com 01/07/21 - 01/21/21

1/7, 1/14 (21-001)

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the provisions of the California Uniform Commercial Code, there being due and unpaid storage and other charges related to the storage for which VALLEY WEST MOBILEHOME PARK is entitled to a lien as Warehouse on the goods hereinafter described, and due notice having been given to the parties known to claim an

Continued on next page »

interest, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such charges having expired, notice is hereby given that these goods will be sold at public auction at 1091 Cedar Drive, Space 8, Arcata, California 95521 on January 11th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The following is a brief description of the property to be sold:

A 1973 Fline Mobilehome, Decal number(s) LAW9030, Serial Number(s) S2601594, HUD/Label/Insignia Number(s) MH270379, 66 feet in length, 12 feet in width.

Purchase of the mobilehome and its contents by any party will require its removal from Valley West Mobilehome Park

Name of Owner: Arturo Sotomayor, Alma Sotomayor

Amount Due: \$2,418.53

Dated at Sunnyvale, California

December 29, 2020
By: JUDY C. TSAI
Attorney for Valley West MHP
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 180
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 775-8848

12/31, 1/7 (20-334)

PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at auction by competitive bidding on the 13th of January, 2021, at 9:00 AM, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Rainbow Self Storage.

The following spaces are located at 4055 Broadway Eureka, CA, County of Humboldt.

Robert Lopez-Fregoso, Space # 5103
Samuel Gonzalez, Space # 5284

The following spaces are located at 639 W. Clark Street Eureka, CA, County of Humboldt and will be sold immediately following the sale of the above units.

Robert Manderville, Space # 2210
Yeni Lopez, Space # 3211

The following spaces are located at 3618 Jacobs Avenue Eureka, CA, County of Humboldt and will be sold immediately following the sale of the above units.

Cheryl Smith, Space # 1117
Polly Ann Huffman, Space # 1314
Willis Alcutt, Space # 1368
Cassie Picklesimer, Space # 1395
Riley Atnip, Space # 1562
Tarren Moses, Space # 1699

Michael Sapiente, Space # 1744
Andrea Hunsucker, Space # 1777
Donavyn Johnson, Space # 1779

The following spaces are located at 105 Indianola Avenue Eureka, CA, County of Humboldt and will be sold immediately following the sale of the above units.

Joseph Salas, Space # 202
Gary Upshaw, Space # 268
Clarence Bailey, Space # 724
Gail Turner, Space # 726
Marquis McAlister, Space # 759
Dylan Young, Space # 767
Robert Shephard, Space # 821
Chanse Zimmer-Wilder, Space # 823

Items to be sold include, but are not limited to:
Household furniture, office equipment, household appliances, exercise equipment, TVs, VCR, microwave, bikes, books, misc. tools, misc. camping equipment, misc. stereo equip. misc. yard tools, misc. sports equipment, misc. kids toys, misc. fishing gear, misc. computer components, and misc. boxes and bags contents unknown.

Anyone interested in attending Rainbow Self Storage auctions must pre-qualify. For details call 707-443-1451.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of the sale in cash only. All pre-qualified Bidders must sign in at 4055 Broadway Eureka CA, prior to 9:00 A.M. on the day of the auction, no exceptions. All purchased items are sold as is, where is and must be removed at time of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation for any reason whatsoever. Auctioneer: Kim Santsche, Employee for Rainbow Self-Storage, 707-443-1451, Bond # 40083246.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2020 and 7th day of January, 2021

12/31, 1/7 (20-329)

SUMMONS (Citation Judicial) CASE NUMBER: CV2001100

NOTICE TO Defendant: Margaret E. Stone, as Trustee of the Margaret E. Stone Revocable Living Trust dated September 5, 1990, AND

ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD ON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE THERETO, AND DOES I THROUGH 10, INCLUSIVE

You are being sued by Plaintiff: Allen Main

Notice: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without you being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and legal papers are

served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for free waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in civil case. The court’s lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is:

Humboldt County Superior Court
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff’s attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Bradford C. Floyd (SBN 136459) Floyd Law Firm 819 Seventh Street (707) 445-9754 Eureka, CA 95501 Date: October 14, 2020 Clerk, by Kim M. Bartleson/Shayla B.

12/24, 12/31, 1/7, 1/14 (20-330)

SUMMONS
(Citation to Parent)
CASE NUMBER: AD2000034
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLT

CITATION TO VICTOR JAMES WELLINGTON
Free Minor From Parental Custody and Control

In the Matter of the Petition of KELLY WEHAUSEN, formerly Spreen, to Declare Khaliya Jewell Spring-Wellington, a minor, Free from the custody and Control of Victor James Wellington

To: The People of the State of California

To: VICTOR JAMES WELLINGTON, Father of Minor

By order of the court, you are hereby advised that you may appear before the Judge Gregory Elvine-Kreis, presiding in Department 6 of the Humboldt County Superior Court on March 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 6 then and there to show cause, if any you have, why Khaliya Jewell Spreen-Wellington should not be declared free from your custody and control for the purpose of freeing her for step-parent adoption.

The following information concerns your rights and procedures which relate to this proceeding for the termination of parental custody and control of Khaliya Spreen-Wellington, as set forth in California civil Code Section 237.5.

The court shall consider whether the interest of the minor child requires the appointment of counsel. If the court finds the interests of the minor do not require such protection, the court shall not appoint counsel to represent the minor. If the court finds the interests of the minor require the representation of counsel, counsel shall be appointed whether or not the minor is able to afford counsel. The minor shall not be present in court, unless the minor so requests or the court so orders.

If a parent appears without counsel and is unable to afford counsel, the court must appoint counsel for the parent, unless such representation is knowingly and intelligently waived. The same counsel shall not be appointed to represent both the minor and her parent.

The public defender or private counsel may be appointed as counsel, pursuant to Family Code Section 7860, et seq. Private counsel appointed under the provisions of Family Code Section 7863 shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, the amount of which shall be determined by the Court. Such amount shall be paid by the real parties in interest, other than the minor, in such proportions as the court deems just. However, if the court finds any of the real parties in interest are unable to afford counsel, the amount shall be paid out of the general fund of the court.

The court may continue the proceeding for not more than thirty (30) days as necessary to appoint counsel to become acquainted with the case.

Dated: November 6, 2020
Kim M Bartleson, Clerk of the Superior Court
Kimberlyn S., Deputy

12/24, 12/31, 1/7, 1/14 (20-328)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00607
The following person is doing Business as **DELTA MATTRESS AND SOFA OUTLET STORE**

Humboldt
705 4th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Rodney J Anderson
200 Cummins Ln.
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Paula G Anderson
200 Cummins Ln.
McKinleyville, CA 95519

The business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Rodney Anderson, Owner This December 11, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by tn, Humboldt County Clerk

12/24, 12/31, 1/7, 1/14 (20-327)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00611
The following person is doing Business as **THE WATER BAR**

Humboldt
107 Mayfair Street
Willow Creek, CA 95573

PO Box 715
Weaverville, CA 96093

Amber E Carman
381 Masonic Lane
Weaverville, CA 96093

The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Amber E Carman, Owner This December 11, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by sc, Humboldt County Clerk

12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 1/7 (20-326)

LEGALS?
442-1400 x314

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00586
The following person is doing Business as **THE COUXP**

Humboldt
737 G St
Arcata, CA 95521

1080 8th St #9
Arcata, CA 95521

The Couxp Corporation
CA 4652212
1080 8th St #9
Arcata, CA 95521

The business is conducted by a Corporation. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Cormac McGrady This December 1, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by sc, Humboldt County Clerk

12/24, 12/31, 1/7, 1/14 (20-331)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00599
The following person is doing Business as **BOOKLEGGER**

Humboldt
402 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Jennifer E McFadden
114 Chartin Rd
Blue Lake, CA 95525

The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Jennifer McFadden, Business Owner This December 7, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by th, Humboldt County Clerk

12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 1/7 (20-321)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00606
The following person is doing Business as **A. HARWICH CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING**

Humboldt
590 Guido Ave
Fortuna, CA 95540

Andrew D Harwich
590 Guido Ave
Fortuna, CA 95540

The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Andrew Harwich, Owner This December 9, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by sc, Humboldt County Clerk

12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 1/7 (20-325)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00615
The following person is doing Business as **EMERALD CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION**

Humboldt
460 Blue Lake Blvd
Blue Lake, CA 95525

PO Box 732
Blue Lake, CA 95525

Patrick J O'Dwyer
460 Blue Lake Blvd
Blue Lake, CA 95525

The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Patrick O'Dwyer, Owner This December 15, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by tn, Humboldt County Clerk

12/24, 12/31, 1/7, 1/14 (20-332)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00600
The following person is doing Business as **REBEL STRENGTH & WELLNESS**

Humboldt
2120 Bigham Court
Eureka, CA 95503

Rebel Fitness & Nutrition LLC
CA 201900110554
2120 Bigham Court
Eureka, CA 95503

The business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Katie Berrey This December 2, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by sc, Humboldt County Clerk

12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 1/7 (20-324)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 20-00631
The following person is doing Business as **PUBLIC TRUST RESEARCH**

Humboldt
247 Hunttoon St
Eureka, CA 95501

PO Box 6770
Eureka, CA 95502

Melissa M Birch
247 Hunttoon St
Eureka, CA 95501

The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on Not Applicable I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s Melissa M Birch, Owner This December 22, 2020 KELLY E. SANDERS by sc, Humboldt County Clerk

12/31, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21 (20-333)



CROSSWORD

by David Levinson Wilk

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14							15					16			
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58					59	60						61			
62					63					64					
65					66					67					

TEQUILA

ANSWERS NEXT WEEK!

©2021 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

- ACROSS

1. Judge

7. 7 1/2-hr. exam

11. First word of every "Friends" episode title

14. Stuffed mouse, maybe

15. Alan with six Emmys

16. Film character's name whose letters appear in the surname of Daisy Ridley

17. Beverage listed in the cocktail guide "Tequila Mockingbird" for all you Jane Austen fans

20. Language suffix

21. "Blame It ____" (1984 film set in Brazil)

22. Home of Daniel K. Inouye International Airport

23. ... for all you Shakespeare fans

27. "Scram!"
- DOWN

29. It's north of Afr.

30. They're often broken before breakfast

31. Instrument with stops

34. Baseball execs

37. Ginger ____

38. ... for all you Charlotte Brontë fans

40. L.L. Bean competitor

41. High-____ monitor

42. Mr. T's crew

43. Prank caller to Moe's Tavern

44. From ____ Z

45. Opposite of passive

47. ... for all you Virginia Woolf fans

53. ____ sci (college course)

54. Linguine sauce

55. Feeling :-|

58. ... for all you Margaret Mitchell fans

62. Dossier letters

63. Cabinet dept. with a windmill on its seal

64. "Reservoir Dogs" character

65. Blog feed inits.

66. Grammy winner Erykah

67. Items at a haberdashery
9. Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, according to the Oxford English Dict.

10. Fraternity letter

11. Main event in "The Crucible"

12. Actress Anne of "Donnie Brasco"

13. Check out

18. Expert

19. Sullen

24. Pained cries

25. Treasured

26. LGBT Pride Month

27. Reverse, e.g.

28. Look at creepily

31. Whole

32. Stephen of "V for Vendetta"

33. Weight-ing room?

34. Farm structure

35. "____ Griffin's Crosswords" (2007-2008 show)

36. Place

38. Cancún kitty

39. "What business is ____ yours?"

43. Texter's "Oh, just remembered ..."

44. Female friend, in France

45. Inhaler user's malady

46. Pigeons or doves

47. Kind of test for a baby

48. Corner pieces, in chess

49. Bones next to humeri

50. Chose

51. So-called "architect of India"

52. Jokey suffix with most

56. "What are you, some kind of ____?"

57. Discord on the far left and far right?

59. Entanglement

60. "How Easy Is That?" cookbook writer Garten

61. Pugilist's org.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS TO LEBRON JAMS														
B	A	W	L	D	E	A	L	T	S	K	I	M		
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HARD #24

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			2	5	1			
2								5

www.sudoku.com

NCJ WASHED UP



Birds awaiting the next wave of surf smelt.
Photo by Mike Kelly

Surf Smelt Crime Spree

By Mike Kelly
washedup@northcoastjournal.com

I've noticed recently that once a person commits enough crimes in plain sight, all their subsequent crimes are basically freebies. One life sentence, 12 life sentences ... who cares? And there are only so many times you can be executed. I'd like to achieve this exciting state of crime freedom. So I'm going to start 2021 by fishing without a license. If that goes well, I'll ramp up to things like money laundering, tax evasion, fake charities and working for foreign governments without registering as an agent. I'm not sure how the law treats fishing without a license but I figure I'd get the most "crime credits" by catching the most fish. Therefore, I'm going to focus on surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*). Illegally catching surf smelt is a perfect crime for me. This is a fish that spawns high on the beach in large numbers during the daytime, which is why they are often called "day fish" locally. (There's another smelt that spawns at night called "night fish.") Anyway, since I'm already at the beach most days, with a little luck I should be able to catch thousands of crime credits in my cast net. Location is important. Surf smelt lay their sticky eggs in coarse sand and small gravel. I have observed surf smelt consistently at beaches such as Stone Lagoon, Gold Bluffs and Mad River. So that's where the game wardens should focus if they want a piece of me. So why the hell would a fish evolve to lay its eggs where they are going to spend several hours each day out of the water? Good question, but I don't know why. Maybe this offers protection from aquatic egg-eaters like small crustaceans or other fishes. Maybe it keeps the eggs warmer so the embryos grow faster and hatch sooner. I'll be sure to ask the game warden before I run away. And timing is important because they spawn right around the high tide. One or

several males follow a female up the beach as a wave washes in, then they wiggle vigorously side-by-side and deposit eggs and sperm into the sand. Sometimes the smelt are left stranded until the next wave comes. Individual smelt spawn multiple times and females can produce tens of thousands of eggs per year. After a few weeks a cute, big-eyed larva hatches, heads out on a wave and most likely experiences a gruesome death. If it survives, it may spend five years trapped in a freaking nightmare. Seriously, seemingly everything wants to eat them. And predatory birds will help you find smelt. Terns and pelicans plunge from the air. Cormorants chase smelt under water. Gulls, which technically aren't assholes most of the time, mob the cormorants trying to snatch their still living prey. And imagine a hell where you and your sweetie fly through the air together, each in an osprey's talons. In my opinion, if surf smelt grew to 10 pounds instead of 10 inches, they'd always be on the menu with salmon and halibut. In fact, the surf smelt's species name "pretiosus" means "precious" in Latin precisely because they are so yummy. And fresh smelt smell like cucumber! I once smelled cucumber while driving through Orick before catching up to a commercial fisher's 4x4 pickup headed to market, its bed filled with smelt. Of course, my plan won't work if nobody finds out I'm a habitual criminal. So if you see me fishing without a license, please call the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's anonymous poaching hotline at 1-888-334-CalTIP (888-334-2258). And if I do eventually get locked up, I'll just beg for a pardon.

●

Biologist Mike Kelly (he/him) writes science-based satire as M. Sid Kelly. It's available at Eureka Books and for Kindle.

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The Hoopa Valley Tribe is accepting applications to fill the following vacant positions:

**SR. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTANT**

Fiscal Department, Reg. F/T, Salary: \$70,000.00/yr.

Applies principals of accounting to analyze information and prepare financial reports.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have a BA in Accounting or related field and a minimum of five years of related experience and or training. Must have a minimum of one year of bank reconciliation experience. A minimum of one year of experience working in accounting software preferably in Abila MIP Accounting. Must have supervisory experience.

DEADLINE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Human Resources Department, Reg. F/T, Salary: \$ DOE.

Oversees the daily administration of the Human Resources Department and administration of the Tribe's Personnel Policies and Procedures; ensures policy compliance and provides assistance to program managers and employees with personnel issues.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have a Bachelor's Degree (B.A.) from a four year college or university; and one to two years of specific experience and/or training related to personnel management; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ability to work under and address stressful situations. Must have a valid CA Driver's License and be insurable. Must maintain strict confidentiality at all times.

DEADLINE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

INSURANCE & RISK MANAGER

Insurance & Risk Management, Reg. F/T, Salary: DOE.

Plans, directs, organizes, coordinates and supervises the Hoopa Tribe's Risk Management and Insurance Program including on-going risk identification, evaluation and consultancy with tribal departments, entities and activities; insurance or self-insurance selection; direct supervision of loss prevention management, claims management, vocational resource management and property service to control risks and losses.

Minimum Qualifications: Must possess a Program Certificate; or one to four years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must be proficient in the use of computers and computer software programs such as: Microsoft Word, Excel, Abila MIP Accounting Software, Human Resources systems, Inventory systems, etc. Must possess a valid CA Driver's License and be insurable.

DEADLINE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

For job descriptions and employment applications, contact the Human Resources/Insurance Department, Hoopa Valley Tribe, P.O. Box 218, Hoopa, CA 95546. Call (530) 625-9200 Ext. 20 or email hr2@hoopainsurance.com. The Tribe's Alcohol & Drug Policy and TERO Ordinance Apply.



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Full Time Position. Position includes, but is not limited to, infection monitoring and reporting, infection risk assessment and prevention, policy and procedure development, staff education, and outbreak management. Employee Health role includes new employee and annual health assessments, immunization programs, exposure management, and safe patient handling programs. Must be able to communicate clearly, verbally and in writing to interface with employees, medical staff, and state, local, and federal health departments and programs. BSN preferred. Certification in Infection Control (CIC) preferred, but willing to train the right candidate.

**LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE –
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Under general supervision of the Police Dispatch Supervisor and on-duty Watch Commander. Dispatchers answer and process both incoming emergency and non-emergency requests, performs all other functions involved with 9-1-1 public safety dispatching, assists with clerical duties within the Police Department, and performs other related duties as assigned. Must be at least 18 and have current CDL. Pre-employment physical and background check required.

Full job description and required application available at City of Fortuna, 621 11th St. or www.friendlyfortuna.com.

This position will remain open until filled.



K'ima:w Medical Center

an entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is seeking applicants for the following positions:

MEDICAL DIRECTOR FT/REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, JANUARY 8, 2021.

PHARMACY CLERK FT/REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, JANUARY 15, 2021.

CERTIFIED DATA ENTRY CODER TECHNICIAN FT/REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, JANUARY 15, 2021.

VAN DRIVER FT/ REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, JANUARY 8, 2021.

HOUSEKEEPER FT/REGULAR TEMPORARY (UP TO 6 MONTHS)

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JANUARY 15, 2021

HR DIRECTOR FT/REGULAR

OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

IT& APPLICATIONS TECHNICIAN FT/REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, DECEMBER 18, 2020.

(2)PATIENT ACCOUNTS CLERK I FT/REGULAR

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5PM, JANUARY 8, 2021.

ACCOUNTANT FT/REGULAR

OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN FT/REGULAR

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RN CARE MANAGER FT/REGULAR

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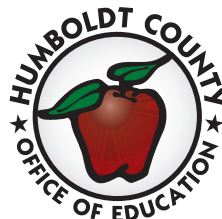
For an application, job description, and additional information, contact: K'ima:w Medical Center, Human Resources, PO Box 1288, Hoopa, CA, 95546 or call **530-625-4261** or email: hr.kmc@kimaw.org for a job description and application. You can also check our website listings for details at kimaw.org. Resume and CV are not accepted without a signed application.

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Humboldt County Office of Education Custodian Permanent

Salary: Range 30, \$13.28-\$18.78

Description: <https://hcoe.org/job-descriptions/custodian-maintenance-worker/>

Qualifications: Graduation from high school or comparable demonstration of basic competence and one (1) year of experience performing custodial or janitorial service is required.

Additional specialized training or experience in carpentry, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, landscaping or painting desirable. Must maintain a current California Driver's License.

The successful candidate will be required to pass a fingerprint clearance with the Department of Justice and show proof of eligibility to work in the United States

Application Procedure: Classified Application Form (available online at: <https://hcoe.org/jobs/>)

Cover Letter Stating reasons for application and summarizing candidate's qualifications. Resume. 3-5 Current Letters of recommendation

Return your Application packet to:
PERSONNEL

Humboldt County Office of Education
901 Myrtle Avenue Eureka, CA 95501

APPLY BY: JANUARY 15, 2021 4:00PM

The Humboldt County Office of Education supports the principles of Equal Opportunity Employment



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For a complete job description, and to apply, please visit our website at: www.ci.eureka.ca.gov.

**Closing date is Wednesday January
20th, 2021 at 5pm. EOE.**



LATERAL POLICE OFFICER CITY OF EUREKA

\$4,660.00 - \$5,664.00 Monthly

Successful candidates may be hired at any step in the salary range, depending on experience. Applicants who hold POST Professional Certifications will be eligible for certification pay as follows:

POST Intermediate: 7% of Basic Salary

POST Advanced: 14% of Basic Salary

Under general supervision, performs a wide variety of patrol and related duties involving the prevention of crime, the protection of life and property, and the enforcement of Federal, State and local laws and ordinances; makes investigations, assists in the preparation of cases and testifies in court; serves in specialized departmental roles as assigned; provides information and assistance to the public; performs related work as assigned.

For a complete job description, and to apply, please visit our website at: www.ci.eureka.ca.gov.

**This recruitment will remain open
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Would you like the opportunity to make a difference, save lives, and make our community a better place to live? Our dispatchers work in a positive and professional environment that provides opportunities for growth. This is an entry-level position; no experience is needed and on-the-job training will be provided. Tasks include taking 911 calls and dispatching police, fire and medical personnel following prescribed procedures and other related duties. The ability to multi-task and work with others in a fast-paced environment is beneficial.

For a complete job description and requirements or to apply online, please visit <http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov>

This position will be open until filled. EOE



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Applications may be obtained at 675 Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell, online at www.cityofriodell.ca.gov (bottom of the webpage) or call (707)764-3532.



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Successful candidates may be hired at any step in the salary range, depending on experience. Applicants who hold POST Professional Certifications will be eligible for certification pay as follows:

POST Intermediate: 7% of Basic Salary

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For a complete job description, and to apply, please visit our website at: www.ci.eureka.ca.gov.

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COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER - LATERAL CITY OF EUREKA

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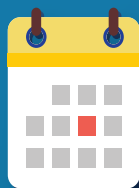
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FIELDS LANDING – LAND/PROPERTY – \$143,000

Design opportunity w/ sweeping bay view potential. Hillside setting, meandering spring/creek through lower portion of parcel, at dead end of the road with easy access to Hwy 101. OMC w/ 50% down, for 5 yrs at 8%. Listed below appraised value!



MAD RIVER – LAND/PROPERTY - \$329,000

±55 Acres in Humboldt near the County line. Property features a small cabin, barn, year round spring, meadows, and oak woodlands. Elevation at approximately 4,000'.



DINSMORE – CULTIVATION – \$899,000

±40 Acres off Highway 36 with Interim Permit for 9,200 sq ft of mixed light and 800 sq ft of outdoor cultivation space. Property features a 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home, barn, green houses, and additional outbuildings.



27 DEADWOOD COURT, BIG BAR - \$269,000

Bright and sunny 2/2 home on ±1.5 acres with a large metal building, additional workshop, and nice covered deck to enjoy the beautiful mountain views.



WEITCHPEC – LAND/PROPERTY – \$115,000

This ±46 acre parcel in Weitchpec awaits the adventurer who enjoys pristine forests and amazing views. Large stands of doug fir, ample water, and several fruit trees are an added bonus!

ARCATA – COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT – \$499,000

Commercial building on a high visibility corner just blocks from the Arcata Plaza! Two buildings, 10 dedicated parking spaces, and tenants are in place.



RIO DELL – LAND/PROPERTY - \$330,000

±14 Acres in Rio Dell! Spring, flat tillable land, and subdivision potential. City lot across the street included in sale. Adjacent parcels also listed for sale.



930 LEWISTON ROAD, LEWISTON - \$449,000

±17 Acres with 4/2.5 farm home with wood floors and many upgrades! Property features a 4,200 sqft shop, well, pond, beautiful views, and is just 40 mins from Redding!



DOUGLAS CITY – HOME ON ACREAGE - \$355,000

±124 Acres overlooking Reading Creek! Easy access, year round creek (with fish), buildable flats, solar system, and an unfinished 2,100 sqft 3/2 house!



ZENIA – LAND/PROPERTY – \$250,000

±30 Acres in Trinity County w/ established road, spring, large meadows and power nearby. Currently used for grazing.



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